

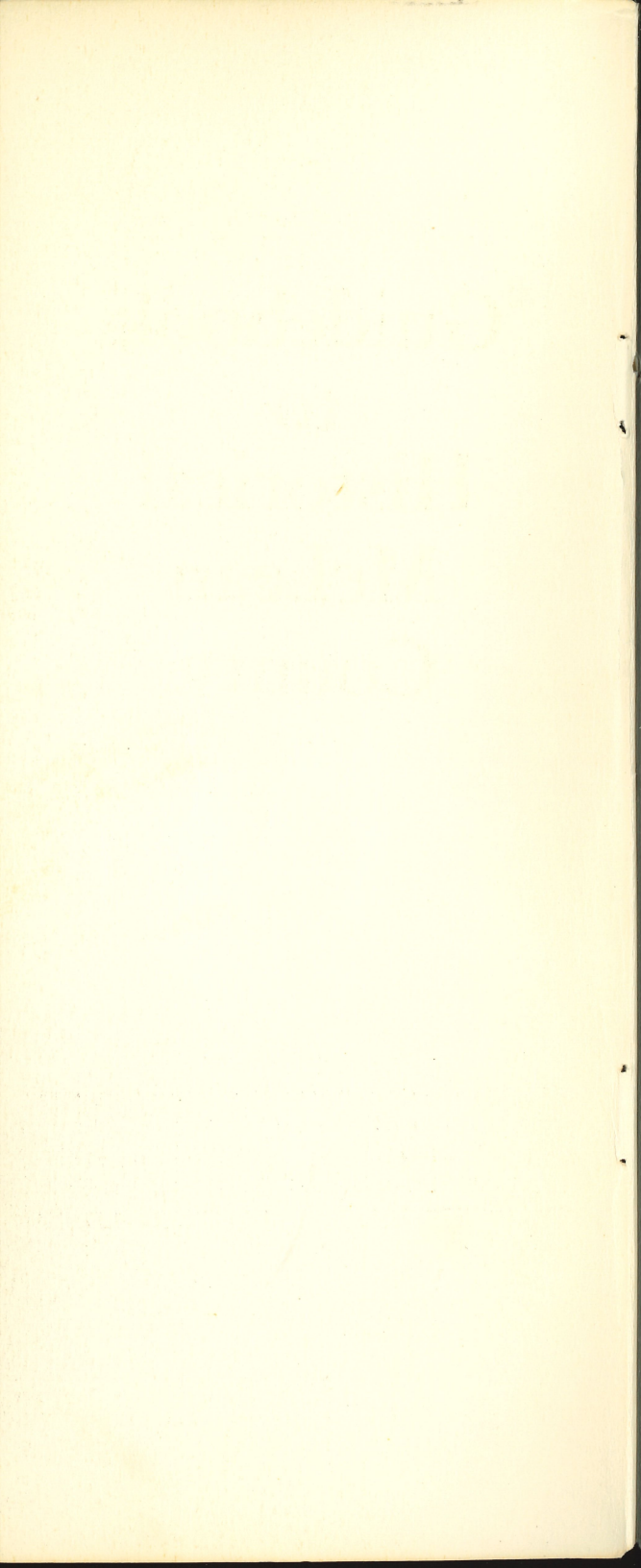
MC LEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Guidebook to Historical McLean County

PRICE:  
ONE DOLLAR

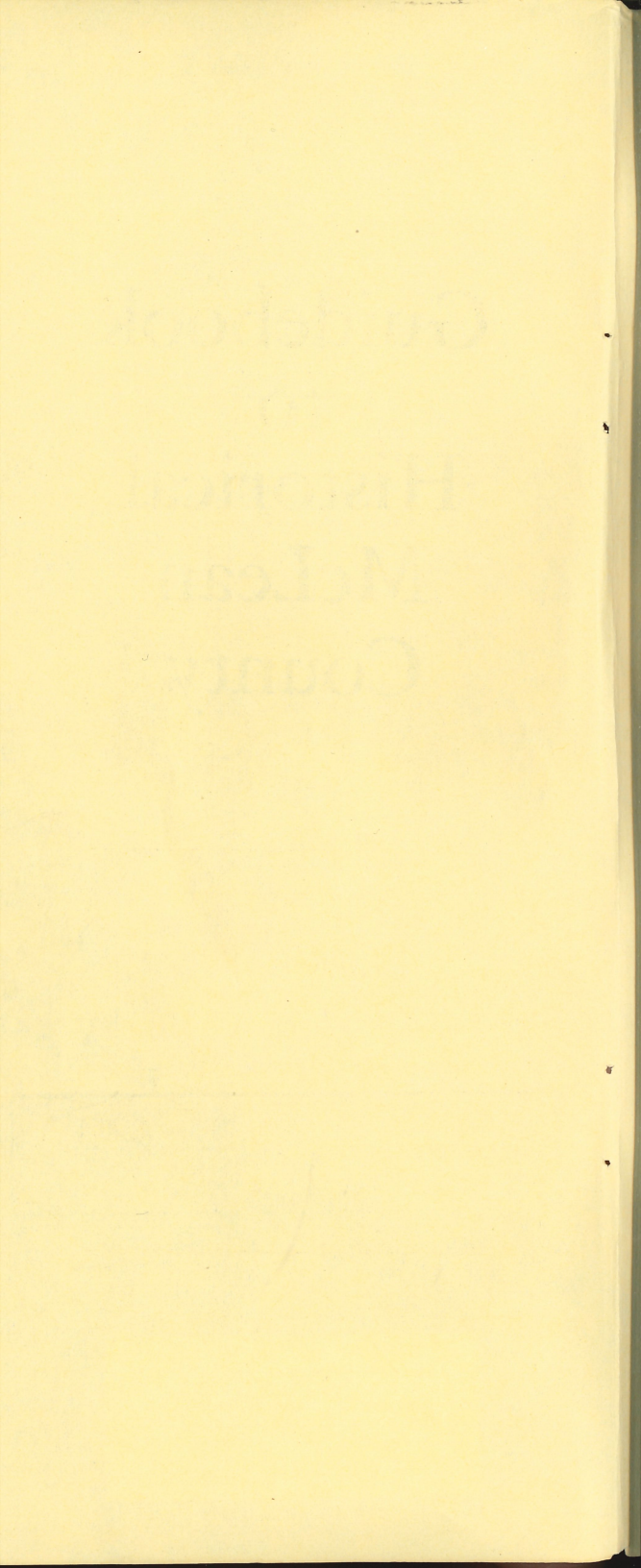
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Guidebook  
to  
Historical  
McLean  
County





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## DEDICATION

*To the youth of McLean  
County who will meet the  
challenge of perpetuating our  
great heritage.*

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## FOREWORD

This Guidebook, as its name implies, is for the purpose of pointing out historic places in McLean County. The casual visitor and the county resident, both will profit by its contents. The promotion of state tourism should bring increasing numbers of visitors to this area. County residents so familiar with our main highways of traffic will be surprised what lies hidden in the byways. To take this Guidebook and explore McLean County should be a most rewarding experience for your entire family. What better way can we find in promoting the study of local history.

Many have had a part in the preparation of this booklet. We are particularly indebted to Mrs. Gladys Lantz and her committee for their fine work in compiling and editing the material. We also

wish to thank the Studio Advertising Workshop for their services in making the layout of the booklet, as well as McKnight & McKnight Publishing Company for their contributions. The Daily Pantagraph has also given valuable assistance in making available the pictures for the publication.

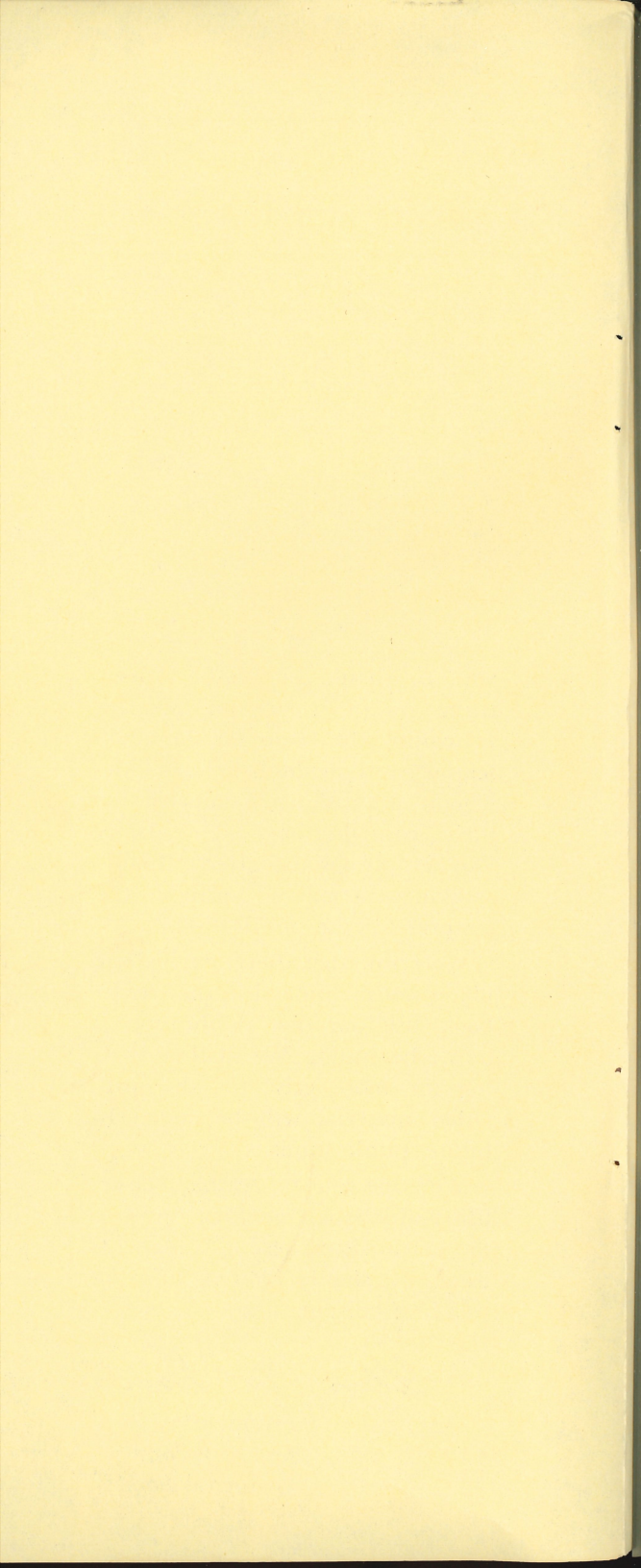
We know that there are historic places not mentioned in the Guidebook, but our first publication is only a beginning. We shall be looking for more grist for the mill. Other material will be added in future publications.

We hope you will read and enjoy this Guidebook, and then travel to the places listed herein. Comments from you should help us improve this first edition.

*Glenn W. Dodds*

*President*

McLean County  
Historical Society





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## McLean County Historical Society

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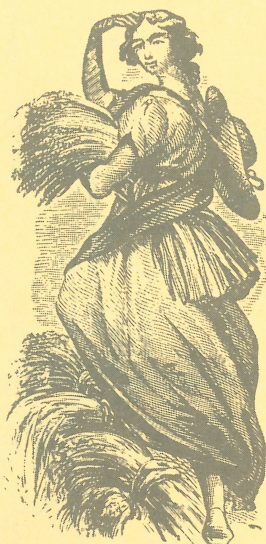
Mighty McLean County, the largest in Illinois, was named for John McLean, Illinois' first representative to Congress. Endowed by the Creator with rich natural resources—timber, fruitful prairie soil, and many streams, including the sources of two great rivers—its chief industry remains agricultural in emphasis.

Numerous other industries have been established within its boundaries which have flourished and spread its fame throughout the state, the nation, and the world.

In its brief one hundred thirty-five years, McLean County has been the birthplace of unnumbered prominent citizens in all walks of life. Its prideful history is replete with their accomplishments.

It is hoped that this publication will engender appreciation for McLean County's historic past. May this realization lead its present and future citizens to resolve that the "best is yet to be."

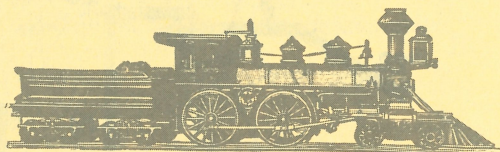




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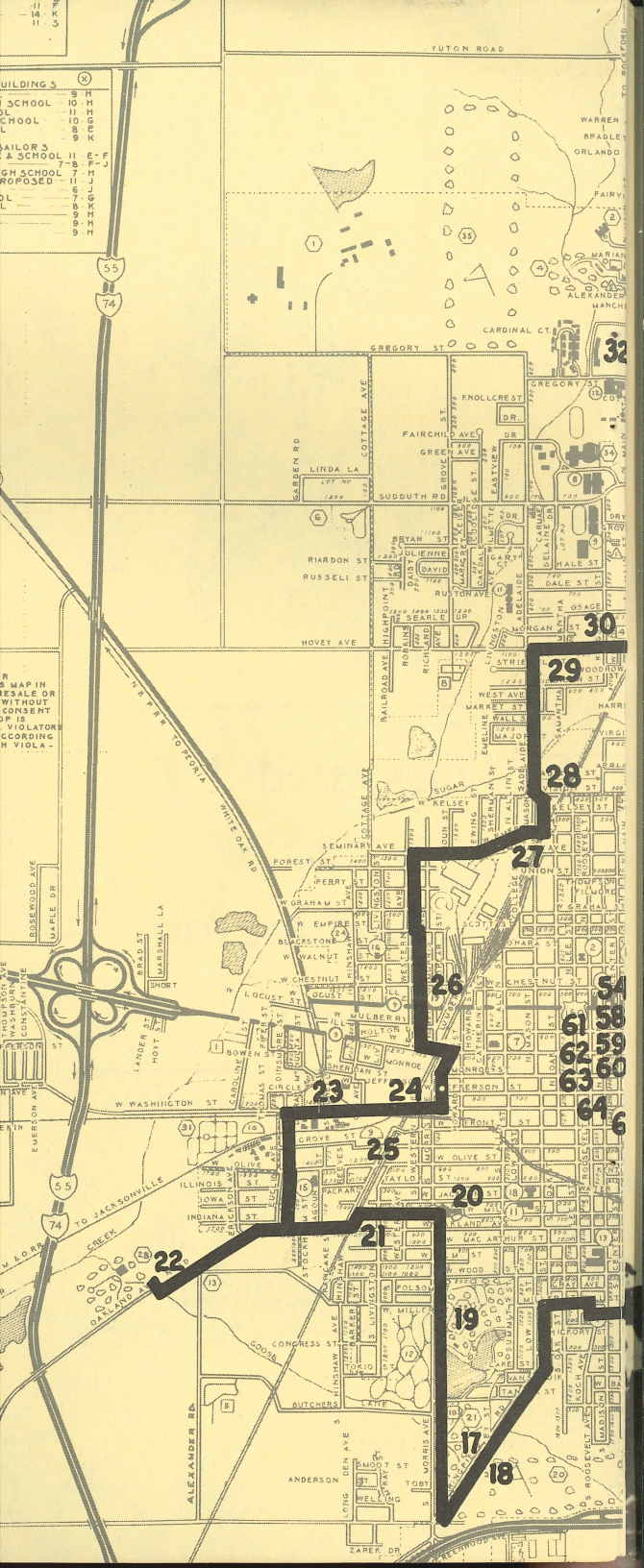
Suggested Tour  
of  
Bloomington  
Normal

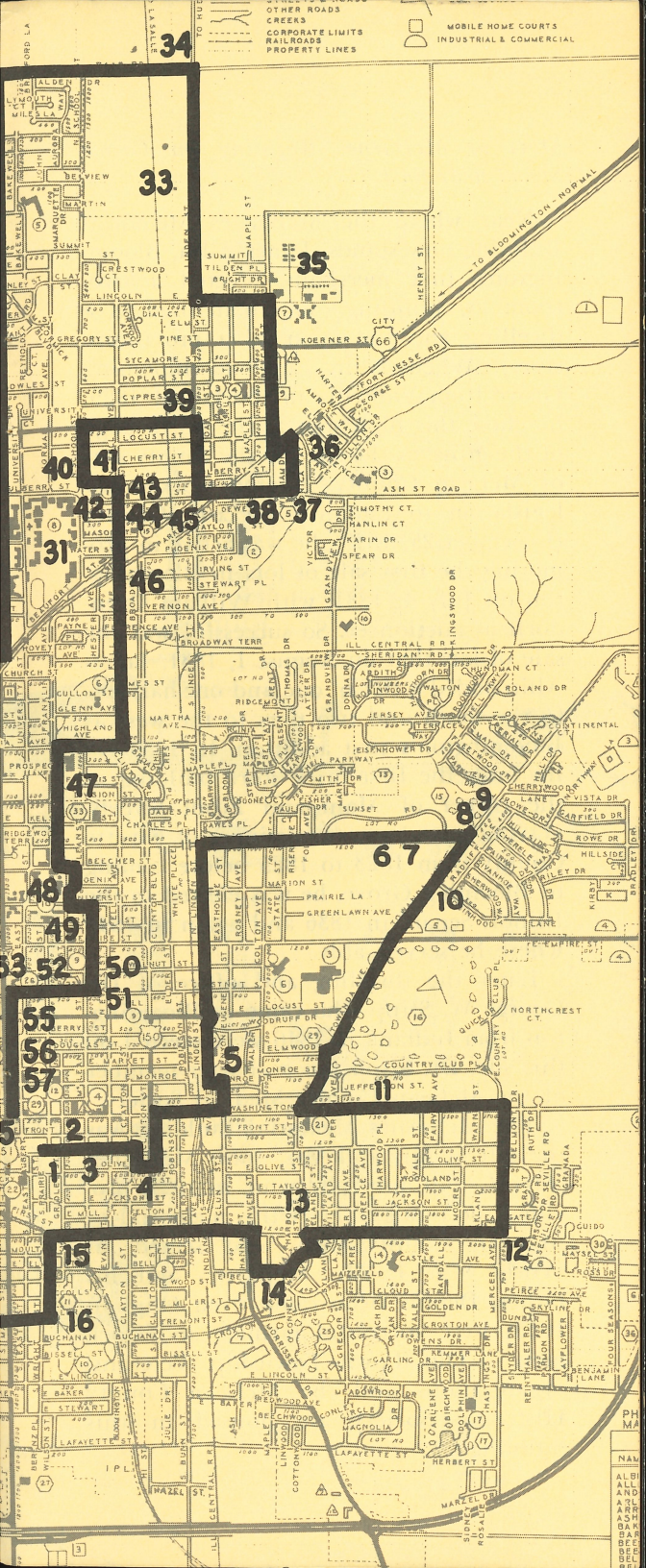
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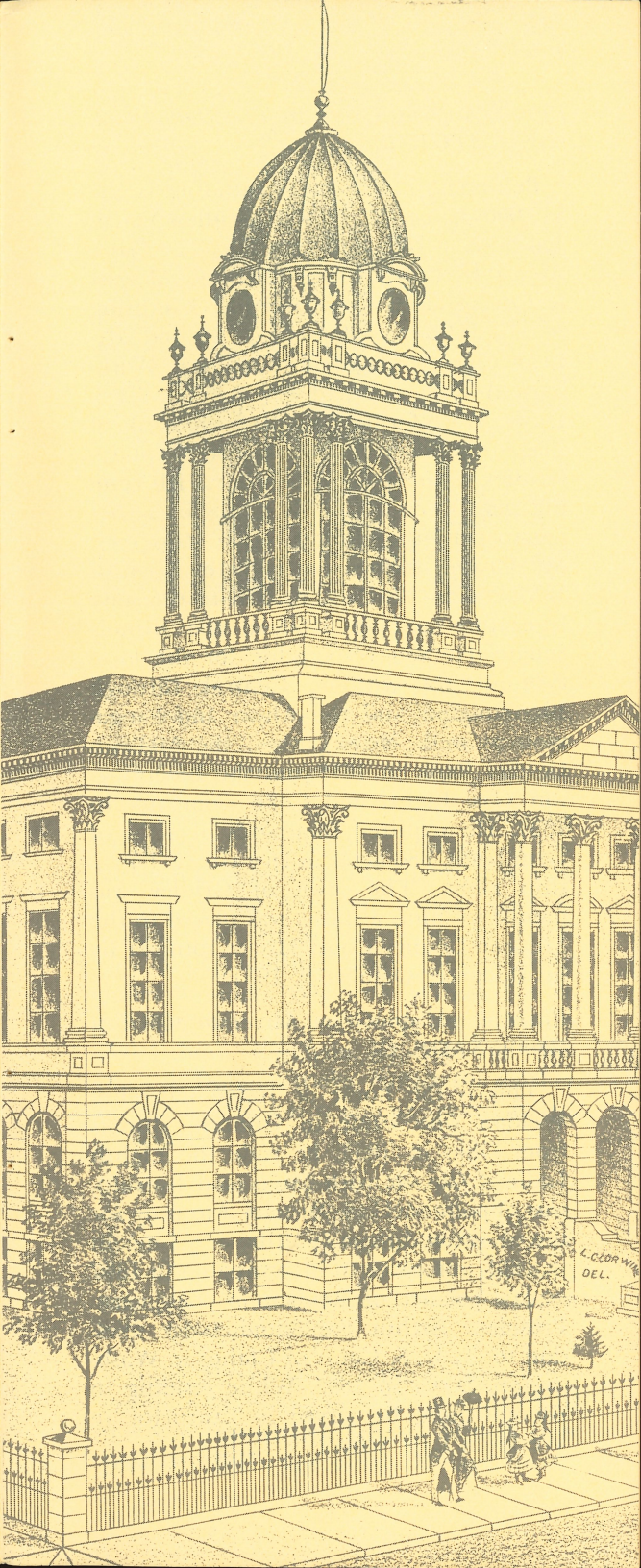
*Start at McBarnes Building on Grove Street near East. (1)*

Near where the McBarnes Memorial Building now stands, James Allin, Bloomington's first merchant, erected a two-room log building (one room used as a dwelling and the other as a provisions' store). When Allin came to Blooming Grove from Vandalia in the fall of 1829, he chose this high spot at the north edge of the grove as the site for the county seat of McLean County. Having worked for legislation to establish McLean County (December 25, 1830), he was active in promoting the first sale of lots in Bloomington on July 4, 1831, with William Orendorff as auctioneer. So successful was the sale of lots that on August 1, 1831, James Allin added a tier of one and one-half lots to the south and two tiers to the west as Bloomington's first addition. In 1839 Allin built the first brick store building at the corner of Main and Front Streets. Having served as commissioner of Fayette County from 1823 to 1825 before coming to Blooming Grove, he was elected to the Illinois Senate in 1836 and again in 1840 where he served ably.

Later the dwelling and office of Dr. George W. Stipp who came to Bloomington from Indiana in 1846 were erected on this site. Dr. Stipp was a charter member of the McLean County Medical Society.

The McBarnes Memorial Building was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. John McBarnes (Mrs. Celia Campbell), who, in 1921, provided the funds to erect this memorial to McLean County men who served in World War I. Mr. McBarnes and his father, Dennis (who came from Ohio in 1853) were successful farmers and stock men in Old Town Township. Veterans' organizations and the McLean County Historical Society are housed in this building.





*Proceed east on Grove to The Oak Apartments. STOP. (2)*

Behind this apartment building is the \$40,000 home of Asahel Gridley which was built in 1859 and known as The Oaks. About 1831, Asahel Gridley and Merritt L. Covell started in general merchandising in a building on the site of the old McLean County Bank (on Main near Washington). Both men had served in the Black Hawk War; Gridley reached the rank of Brigadier General and Covell, Captain. Gridley was responsible for Mr. Hill coming here as editor of Bloomington's first newspaper, the *Bloomington Observer*. Mr. Gridley went down with the crash of 1837, but in 1844 was elected to the state legislature and in 1850 to the Illinois Senate. He was responsible for the location of the Illinois Central through Bloomington and the Alton and Sangamon as well. He organized the McLean County Bank in 1853 and the Bloomington Gas, Light, and Coke Company in 1857. He acquired thousands of acres of farm lands, 880 acres in Dry Grove Township alone. The town of Gridley was named for him; a statue was placed in the McLean County Court House rotunda by his daughter October 9, 1931.

*Proceed east on Grove Street to 407 East Grove. STOP. (3)*

This is the home of Judge Lawrence Weldon who came to Clinton, Illinois from Ohio in 1853; he rode the Eighth Judicial Circuit with Davis and Lincoln, was appointed U. S. District Attorney for the southern district of Illinois by Lincoln in 1861, and came to Bloomington in 1867 as law partner of Reuben M. Benjamin. President Arthur appointed Judge Weldon to the U. S. Court of Claims in Washington, D. C. in 1883. While residing in Bloomington, he served as instructor in Wesleyan Law School.





*Lincoln Oak Tree*

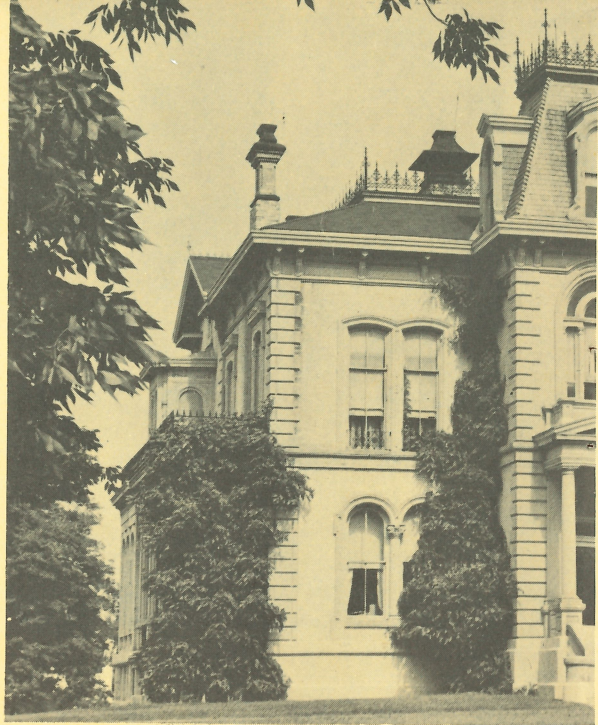
*Go east on Grove to Clayton (2 blocks); turn right one block to Taylor Street. STOP at 701 East Taylor (southeast corner of intersection). (4)*

This home was built in the 1870's by Matthew Scott, one of the owners of the McLean County Coal Company. It is now known as the Vrooman home. Carl S. Vrooman served as First Assistant Secretary of Agriculture from 1914 to 1919 under President Woodrow Wilson. Under the large oak tree, known as the "Lincoln Oak," both Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas spoke. Notice the marker on the tree which is almost buried by its growth.

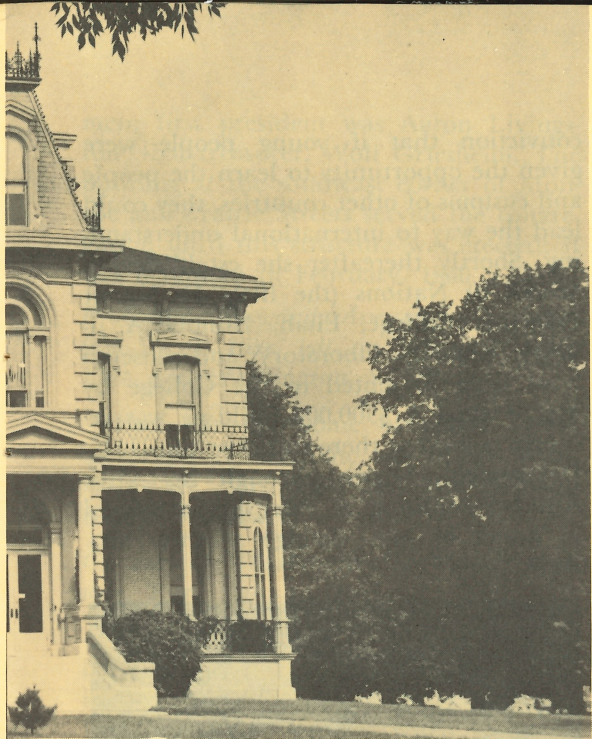
*Turn left on Taylor to Clinton; turn left on Clinton four blocks to Washington. Turn right on Washington to Davis Avenue (first street to left under subway); turn left on Davis to Davis Mansion, 1000 East Jefferson. STOP.*

Judge David Davis came to Bloomington from Maryland in 1836. A graduate of the New Haven Law School, he took over Jesse W. Fell's law office. Elected to the





Illinois Legislature for one term in 1844, he was elected Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in 1848. It was here that he became acquainted with Abraham Lincoln as they rode the circuit together. Lincoln appointed him Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1862 where he served with distinction. Following the death of President Garfield, he was elected President Pro Tem of the Senate; he was almost nominated for the presidency in 1872 to oppose General Grant. He is remembered for his generous subscriptions to the locating of Illinois State Normal University and the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and for his efforts to keep the Chicago and Alton shops here after they burned in 1867. The first Davis home was built here in 1848 on 200 acres; the present house was built in 1870 on 35 acres, which in recent years has been subdivided. The Davis mansion was made a state historical shrine in 1959; it opened to the public February 11, 1961.



*David Davis Mansion*

*Jog left to Linden and proceed north to Emerson Street; turn right to Unitarian Church. STOP. (6)*

The Unitarian Church was organized in Bloomington in 1858. Jesse W. Fell was one of its founders.

*Proceed a few hundred feet to St. John's Lutheran Church. STOP. (7)*

Known for many years as the English Lutheran Church and housed in the building at the corner of Allin and Olive Streets, this church was organized in 1872. This is Bloomington's newest church structure, completed in 1965.

*Go to Towanda Avenue. STOP. (8)*

To the left is the "castle" known as Sunset Hill, completed shortly before 1930; it is the home of Hazle Buck Ewing, inspired by a trip around the world which she made in 1924. The trip resulted in her



conviction that if young people were given the opportunity to learn the people and customs of other countries, they could lead the way to international understanding. Shortly thereafter she established a School of Nations (the little U. N.) at Principia College, Elsah, Illinois. A library, language laboratory, and museum have been presented to the College by Mrs. Ewing. A \$500,000 building was recently dedicated there to house the U. N. Department, largely through her gifts. Another building at Principia is named in honor of Mrs. Ewing's mother, Mrs. Buck.



*Dag Hammarsjold Memorial*

*Ewing Park. (9)*

To the left on Towanda Avenue is Bloomington's newest park comprising 35 acres, Ewing Park. Presented to the City of Bloomington in 1956 by Mrs. Ewing, the land was cleared and a shelter constructed; the park is widely used as a neighborhood recreation center. A boulder inscribed in memory of Dag Hammarsjold, Secretary-General to the United Nations, was placed there by Mrs. Ewing in 1961.

*Turn right on Towanda Avenue to Robinhood Lane. STOP. (10)*

The Moses Montefiore Temple, which serves those of the Jewish faith, was organized in Bloomington in 1886 by fifteen



men; first president was Aaron Livingston; first treasurer, Wolf Griesheim. The building at the southeast corner of Monroe and Prairie Streets served the congregation until this structure was erected; it was dedicated in February, 1960.

*Proceed on Towanda Avenue to Washington Street; turn left on Washington to 1316 East Washington. STOP. (11)*

This was the home of Adlai Ewing Stevenson II from the age of six years. His sister, Mrs. Ives, and her husband reside here now.

*Go east on Washington to Mercer Avenue. Turn right to Oakland. STOP. (12)*

The Heafer Brick + Tile Yard was located on the southeast corner of this intersection. It was established by Napoleon Bonaparte Heafer when he came here in 1853 from Kentucky. Natural ice was sold here also beginning in 1914. This house was built by the Brokaw family in 1908.

*Turn right on Oakland to State Street. STOP. (13)*

To the right at 403 South State is the Lucy Orme Morgan Home for girls which was established in 1899. The present building was completed in the fall of 1917; it was named for the daughter of General William W. Orme, Civil War veteran.

*Turn left on State; proceed to Maizefield, right on Maizefield to Bell. STOP in front of Eureka-Williams Corporation. (14)*

Once known as the Williams Oil-o-Matic Corporation and founded by Walter Williams, inventor of an oil burner, which was widely used throughout the world.

*Turn right on Hanna to Oakland; turn left on Oakland to Wright Street. STOP.*

To the left is the warehouse that was



*The late Adlai E. Stevenson II  
before Stevenson Family Monument*

used by Campbell Holton Company from the time it was organized in 1907 by Mr. Holton until recent years. The Company's name brands—Camel, Happy Hour, Red Mill—were known and used throughout the world.

*Turn left on Wright to Miller; turn left on Miller to Evergreen Cemetery. STOP. (16)*

Many illustrious people who have contributed in a variety of ways to the fame and fortune of Bloomington and Normal are buried here. The burial of Adlai Ewing Stevenson II here in July, 1965, added another chapter to immortality.

*Proceed out of cemetery on Miller, across Main to Madison, jog right, then left on Miller to Low. Turn left on Low Street to angling road back of Forest Park.*

The park on the right was known as Stein's Grove until it was annexed to Miller Park in 1890's; it now bears the name of Forest Park (17). The road on which we are traveling is the old trail to Springfield which was used by Abraham Lincoln and others; it is referred to as the old Springfield Road (18).



*Go to end of road; make sharp right turn on Morris Avenue. Proceed on Morris Avenue to Miller Park (right) (19). STOP.*

In 1887 W. T. Miller donated this 40-acre park to the City of Bloomington. It has served Bloomington-Normal and the surrounding area well for many years. The artificial lake provides swimming, boating, and fishing in summer; ice skating in winter. The zoo attracts young and old. The \$50,000 soldiers' monument at the northeast corner was dedicated in 1913; it contains the names of all McLean County soldiers to that time.

*Proceed on Morris Avenue to Mill Street. STOP.*

On the right is St. Joseph's Hospital (20), Bloomington's first, which was opened in 1880. The many additions through the years have enabled the staff to care for all in need of care and treatment, regardless of ability to pay. Plans now call for its re-location in east Bloomington.

#### *Soldier's Monument*





*Turn left on Mill Street to Livingston. STOP.*

The Booker T. Washington Home for negro children is located at 1203 MacArthur, to the left. This was established in 1920.

*Go on Mill Street across the bridge; turn left to Oakland, then right on Oakland to Bloomington-Normal Sanitary District plant (on right). Drive in and turn around. STOP.*

The Bloomington-Normal Sanitary District was established in 1924, a satisfactory joint venture in providing sewage disposal. The grounds were landscaped according to plans drawn up by Archie Augustine, one of the Sanitary District Directors.

*Follow Oakland Avenue Road back to Euclid; turn left on Euclid to Washington; right on Washington to Funk Bros. Seed Company (right). STOP. (22)*

The descendants of Isaac Funk (see Funk's Grove) began hybridizing corn experimentally at the turn of the century as early pioneers in a business which has grown phenomenally. The experimentation continues with a special department housed in the building on the left. *Funk's G* signs are displayed all over the world. In 1924 Funks were among the first to process soybeans. That plant is also to the right behind the offices.

*Proceed on Washington to railroad tracks. STOP.*

On the left was the site of the McLean County Coal Company (23) formed in 1868 by Adlai and John Stevenson, Matthew Scott, and Lyman Graham. Coal was mined here until 1928. Miners who wished to live close to the mine chose the Stevensonville Addition to the City of

Bloomington which lies to the southwest.

On the hill to the right is the Beich Candy Company (24) whose products are known throughout the world. Paul F. Beich, founder, was born in Prussia. He came to Bloomington in 1882, and, after traveling for a candy company for several years, he went into business on East Front Street in 1893. The present location was chosen by the Paul F. Beich Company which was organized in 1905; present plans are to locate southwest of Bloomington near the inter-state highways.

*Proceed to Morris Avenue; turn left on Morris to Market, then left on Market to Western; right on Western to Locust. STOP.*

St. Patrick's Church (25) on the northeast corner was established in 1892. The school is adjacent.

*Go north on Western to Seminary Avenue; turn right on Seminary-Emerson to Mason Street (on left). STOP.*

On the right are the yards of the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad (26). This railroad was completed in 1852 to Bloomington as an extension of the Alton & Sangamon Railroad; it was first known as the

#### *C & A Shops*





Chicago and Mississippi Railroad. First train to the "Junction" (with Illinois Central in Normal) was on October 16, 1853. Sold in 1861, the name was changed to the Chicago and Alton. The shops built in Major's Grove occupied forty acres. Included were machine, car, and boiler shops as well as foundries and round houses. A major fire destroyed the shops in 1867 but the citizens of Bloomington rallied their efforts behind such leading citizens as David Davis and the shops were rebuilt here. The first pullman car in the world was built in these shops; it traveled to Chicago on September 1, 1859. Purchased by the G. M. & O. in 1946, the road carries a vast amount of freight and furnishes transportation for passengers from Chicago to St. Louis and beyond.

*Turn left on Mason to Division Street; jog left to Adelaide. Turn right on Adelaide. STOP.*

The Bloomington Water Works (27) is on the right. Built in 1874, water from wells was pumped and processed here until 1930, when Lake Bloomington was completed (12 miles to the northeast).

*Proceed on Adelaide to Kern. STOP.*

On the northeast corner is the well which was purchased by Normal from Bloomington in 1961. The water was found when a coal mine shaft was sunk in 1867.

*Go north on Adelaide to Hovey Avenue; turn right on Hovey to 1005 Hovey. (28) STOP.*

On the right is the home built by Civil War veteran, Captain William Partridge, in 1869. The brick was kilned in a brickyard back of the house. The family lived in the carriage house while the mansion was being completed.





*Old Main / ISU*

*Proceed on Hovey to Kingsley. STOP.*

On the left is Victory Hall Home (29) for boys which was established in 1919.

*Go to Main Street; turn left on Main and proceed to Illinois State University (30) (on the right). STOP.*

On February 18, 1857, the Illinois Legislature passed an act for establishment and maintenance of a normal university, location not designated. Lively bidding for its location ensued. Through the efforts of citizens headed by Jesse W. Fell, the state board awarded the university to North Bloomington. Classes convened in Major's Hall in Bloomington in October, 1857, with Charles E. Hovey as principal and Ira Moore, his assistant. Transportation to Bloomington was furnished on the Illinois Central Railroad; some students walked the muddy paths until a plank walk was laid by the students. Classes moved into the new building (Old Main) in January, 1861. Thus the first university in Illinois and the second oldest normal school west of the Alleghenies was established.

The Museum located in Milner Library contains many interesting displays and items of historical interest. There are many interesting markers on the campus.

*Proceed north on Main to Willow. STOP.*

The Hudelson Museum of Agriculture is on the left, named for Clyde W. Hudelson, head of the Agriculture Department

for many years. Many historical items related to agriculture are housed here.

*Proceed north on Main to 607 North Main. (32) STOP.*

John Gregory, early Normal landowner, built this home about 1850. The verandas, cupola, and one fireplace have been removed. A later house was built by the Gregorys at the northwest corner of Gregory and Main Streets.

*Go north on Main to Raab Road; turn right on Raab Road to the railroad tracks. STOP.*

This is the Illinois Central Railroad which was granted a charter February 10, 1851, following a plan of Stephen A. Douglas whereby Congress donated to the State of Illinois alternate sections of land on either side of the railroad. In addition, the State made the stipulation that seven per cent of the gross earnings of the railroad be paid to the state treasury. The first train to Cairo from LaSalle ran on May 23, 1853.

The junction with the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio is south of here (right). The Town of Normal grew up around this junction.

*Proceed on Raab to Linden. STOP.*

On the northwest corner is the Little Red School (34) (now a dwelling painted white), which housed the first nursery in Normal started in 1861 by Cyrus Overman and William Mann. The upper floor served as a schoolroom; the deep basement was used for many years as a grafting and storage place for nursery stock.

Nurseries were the first business of Normal, probably because of Jesse Fell's interest in planting trees on the treeless prairie where Normal now stands. In addition to the Overman and Mann Nursery there were: the Phoenix Nursery started in 1860 by Franklin Phoenix, Augustine



Nursery, Watson Nursery (Jersey at Linden), and the Home Nursery. Two nurseries remain in Normal - Custer Brothers started in 1890 and the Family Gardens.

*Turn right on Linden to Lincoln; left on Lincoln to Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School. (35) STOP.*

Contracts were let and building begun on Normal's second state institution on May 3, 1867 (a decade after the locating of Normal University). Known as the Illinois Soldiers' Orphans' Home (for children of Civil War veterans), the first four-story building was completed and occupied June 1, 1869, which was razed a few years ago. Now known as The Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School, it provides homes for many children of Illinois.



*Taylor (Dillon) Home*

*Turn right on Beech Street to William Drive; turn left on William to 200 William Drive. STOP. (36)*

Built in the 1870's by Knox Taylor, one of the founders of Normal's Christian Church, this house was sold to Ellis Dillon in 1882. The Dillon family was world-renowned as importers and breeders of Norman and Percheron horses. They made regular trips to France and Belgium to purchase breeding stock. The horses were sold from the five large barns the Dillons

owned in and around Normal.

*Follow William Drive to Ash Street; turn right on Ash across the Beech Street intersection. STOP.*

Eleven-acre Ash Park (37) which was purchased in 1962 serves as a neighborhood recreation area. It is the first city-school development of a park site.

On the left was the Champion Canning Company (38) (now used as a street shed by the Town of Normal). Thomas Ellis Champion was born in England. On coming to this country, he learned the tin-smith's trade; in 1867 he joined his brother, George, in the hardware business in Normal. Thomas discovered that by soldering the openings in tin cans, vegetables and fruits could be canned in them. His canning operations outgrew the basement of his home so he moved to a building located at Beaufort and Linden in 1890. Later the canning company was moved to this building. The Champions lived at 502 East Ash (green house). The Normal Canning Company opened in 1886 and the Bloomington Canning Company in 1888 on Division Street between Franklin and University Streets in Normal (now occupied as a seed corn warehouse by Funk Brothers).

*Proceed on Ash to Linden; turn right on Linden to Willow; left on Willow to the Baby Fold. (39) STOP.*

Mrs. Nancy Mason, whose home was at 309 North Street, was largely responsible for the establishment of this home for abandoned babies. Named the Baby Fold when it was organized in 1902, it was located in Mrs. Mason's home until 1911 when it moved to this location. Mrs. T. W. Asher, Methodist Deaconess, served as superintendent from 1908 to 1935. The Baby Fold farm at 715 North Main was bought in 1918 and was used to produce the food for the children.



*Go west on Willow to School Street; turn left on School to First Methodist Church. (40) STOP.*

Organized in 1865, this was the first church in Normal which was located at the northwest corner of Fell and Ash Streets until this building was completed in 1957.

*Go to Mulberry; turn left on Mulberry. STOP.*

On the left is the American Baptist Church (41) (First Baptist), the oldest church building in use in Normal which was built in 1875.

*Proceed on Mulberry to 202 West Mulberry. STOP.*

On the left is the home of Charles E. Hovey (42), built in 1860. He was the first President of Illinois State Normal University (1857-1861). After organizing the Thirty-third Illinois Volunteers ("Schoolmasters' Regiment"), he went to the Civil War in 1861 where he reached the rank of Brigadier General. His son, Richard, who became a famous poet, was

*Richard Hovey Home*



born here in 1864. The marker was placed by the Association of Psi Upsilon Fraternity of Chicago in 1931.

On the southeast corner of Fell and Mulberry Street is the First Presbyterian Church of Normal. This building was erected in 1914.

*Turn right on Fell and proceed to North Street. STOP.*

The University Christian Church was organized in 1872; the building on the northeast corner was erected in 1913.

Organized in 1895 by William W. McKnight, Sr. and his sister, Hannah (who later married George Champion, Sr.), the firm of McKnight & McKnight occupied the building on the southeast corner of Broadway and North. School supplies and maps were sold here. The firm is now engaged in the publishing business and is located near U.S. 66 east of Normal.

*Proceed south on Fell to 502 South Fell. STOP. (46)*

Jesse W. Fell came from Pennsylvania to Delavan, Illinois, in 1832 and to Bloomington in 1833. He was Bloomington's first lawyer. After the crash of 1837, Fell went to Adams County, Illinois, but returned in 1855 and built this home (on left) on what is now the southwest corner of what is now Irving and Broadway (a block east). The fifteen-acre homesite was bounded on the south by Vernon (First) Avenue, on the east by Broadway (Fourth Street), and on the west and north by the railroad. The house was square with a large wing to the north, broad porches on three sides, and a captain's watch. At the southeast corner was a deer park; peacocks strutted on the lawn. The house was moved to this location shortly after the Fells built a new house in 1882 at the southeast corner of Vernon and Broadway.



Although smaller, it was a show place of its time because of its bathroom and a furnace which heated the whole house.

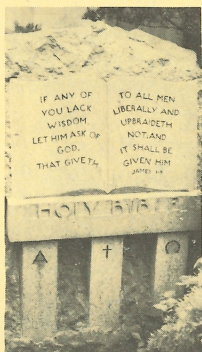
*Proceed on Fell to Virginia; turn right on Virginia to Franklin Avenue. Turn left on Franklin. STOP.*

In 1893 plans were begun for the establishment of a Protestant hospital in Bloomington-Normal. A group of Bloomington-Normal doctors secured an option on land here (left) in 1895. The first building was erected in 1896; under the management of the Mennonite Deaconess Nurses. When, in 1901, I. Abraham Brokaw, successful plowmaker, turned over a trust fund of \$30,000 to the hospital, it became known as Brokaw Hospital (47). At Mr. Brokaw's death he willed an additional \$200,000 and a farm in Dale Township to the hospital. Plans are under way for expansion on this site.

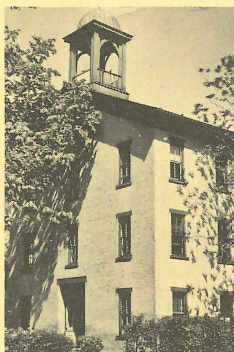
*Proceed on Franklin to Beecher; turn left on Beecher to Park Street and right on Park Street. STOP.*

Illinois Wesleyan University (48) was founded by the Methodist Church in 1850. In 1856 the first building - Old North (right) - was completed in 1856, followed by Main Hall erected in 1870. From 1874 to 1927, its college of law had a wide reputation. At present its schools of Music, Art, Dramatics, and Nursing are well known.

*Bible Monument*



*Old North Hall  
Ill. Wesleyan Univ.*



On the south side of University Street between East and Park Streets are three memorials of significance - the bell from Hedding College (Abingdon) which merged with Wesleyan in 1930; the only monument to the Holy Bible in the world; and the John Wesley Powell memorial.

John Wesley Powell, a Civil War veteran who lost his right arm in the Battle of Shiloh, came to Illinois Wesleyan in 1865 as professor of geology and curator of the Museum; he resigned to accept a similar position at Illinois State Normal. While here he made plans to explore the Colorado River, which was carried out for the government in 1870 with a group of students. His life was reviewed in a movie released in 1961, "Ten Who Dared."

*Proceed on Park Street to University.  
STOP. (49)*

The old car barns stood on the southeast corner of the intersection until the property was sold to Illinois Wesleyan University. In 1867 a railway, powered by coal burning engines, was built between downtown Bloomington and Illinois State Normal University. The soot and noise soon made them forbidden in Bloomington, so mules pulled the cars to Bloomington. Mule power was finally used altogether until the line was electrified in 1890. From then until the abandonment of street cars in the 1930s, an improved system of street railways existed under the ownership of Antoine E. DeMange, who also headed the Bloomington Electric Company. Buses are now used for transportation.

*Turn left on University to McLean (1 block); turn right on McLean to 909 North McLean. (50). STOP.*

This was the home of Joseph Wilson



Fifer who came to Bloomington in 1857 from Virginia. He was engaged in the manufacture of brick until he went to serve in the Civil War. Badly wounded, he returned to study at Illinois Wesleyan University from which he received his law degree. After serving as city and state's attorney, he was elected to the Illinois Senate in 1880 and as Governor of Illinois for one term (1888-1892). His daughter, Florence, married Jacob A. Bohrer; she served from 1924 to 1932 as Illinois' first woman senator.

*Go to 901 North McLean (51). STOP.*

Adlai Ewing Stevenson, Sr., who came to Bloomington from Kentucky in 1852, built this home. He attended Illinois Wesleyan Law School and began practicing law in Bloomington in 1868. From 1896 to 1900 he served as Vice-President of the United States with President Cleveland.

*Turn right on Chestnut to middle of block. STOP.*

On the right is Franklin Park (52), which was given to the City of Bloomington in 1856 by David Davis, William F. Flagg, and William H. Allin and named in honor of Mayor Franklin Price.

*Go to Main Street. STOP.*

To the right is Mennonite Hospital (53) which was founded in 1920 and is sponsored by the Mennonite Church. It houses the surgery wing of the Gailey Eye Clinic.

On the southwest corner is Holy Trinity Church (54) which was founded in 1853. The present site was purchased in 1859.

*Turn left on Main to Mulberry. STOP.*

To the left one block (northwest corner

of Mulberry and East Streets) is the Scottish Rite Temple where the American Passion Play has been performed since 1924. On this site was the home of James S. Ewing, who had a factory for making reapers in partnership with William F. Flagg at the site of the Big Four depot (back of the present City Hall). Mr. Ewing served as American Minister to Belgium under President Cleveland.

*Proceed on Main to Market. STOP.*

One-half block to the left (north side) was the Illini Theatre (also known as the Grand Opera House and the Chatterton), now occupied by Biddle Advertising. Many famous stars of operatic and stage fame played to Central Illinois audiences in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. School functions and many other meetings were also held here in early days.

*Proceed to Monroe. STOP.*

On the southeast corner of East and Monroe, the Second Presbyterian Church was erected in 1856, following a protest meeting against some members of First church on June 24, 1855, over slavery. The First Presbyterian was organized in 1833 and until 1964 was located at the northeast corner of Grove and East Streets. Joining with the Pilgrim Congregational Church, now known as the United Presbyterian Church, a new building is being erected at the east end of Washington Street.

*Proceed to Jefferson. STOP.*

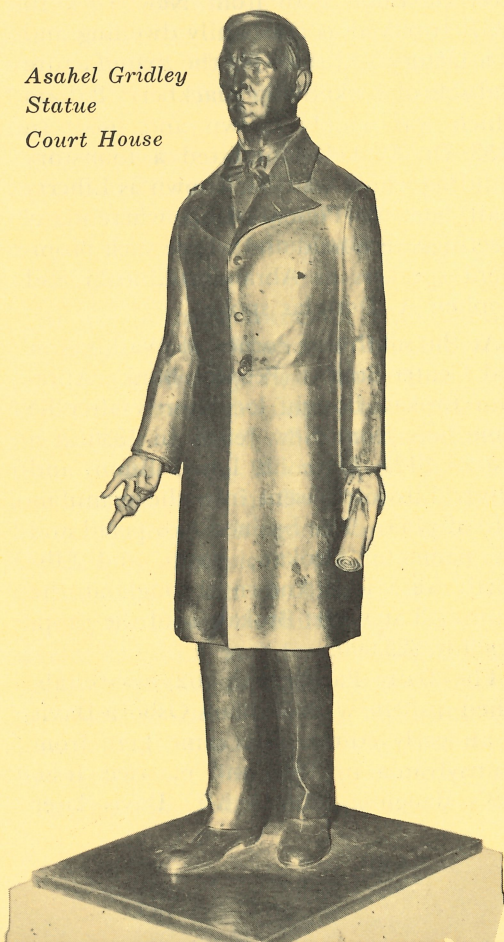
Here bounded by Jefferson, Center, Washington, and Main Streets is the court house square. Four court houses (58) have been built at this location. The first was erected in 1832 for \$339.25; it also served as a school house and public meeting



place. The second, built in 1836, stood for thirty years but was replaced by a building that was begun in 1868 and completed in 1879. It was so badly damaged in the 1900 fire that it was razed and the present building completed in 1903.

The following items of historical significance are in the court house: Plaque dedicated to John McLean, first Illinois representative to Congress, 1818 and U.S. Senator 1824-25 and 1829-30 (died in office); the statue of Asahel Gridley; a plaque dedicated to General James G. Harbord who served as chief-of-staff under General John J. Pershing during World War I; paintings of Adlai E. Stevenson,

*Asahel Gridley  
Statue  
Court House*



Sr. and Governor Joseph W. Fifer in the Circuit Court Room.

The Griesheim Building (59) (southeast corner of Jefferson and Main) was rebuilt in 1901 following the 1900 fire. Wolf Griesheim was born in Germany and came to Bloomington in 1884. Starting at \$100 annual salary in Berman's Store (where Livingston's is located), he worked up to \$35 a month and board. In 1886 he started his own U.S. Store and purchased the building site in 1890, erecting Bloomington's first skyscraper in 1896.

On the south side of the square is the store founded by Aaron Livingston in 1866; (60) he had come from Germany in 1865. On this site, Dr. Cyrenius Wakefield erected a two-story brick building shortly after he came here from New York in 1837. It served as the family dwelling and as a factory and store for the manufacture and sale of Wakefield's Blackberry Balsam which was widely known and used. In 1852 Dr. Wakefield erected a four-story building which was first known as Liberty Hall, later the Phoenix Hall, where many meetings were held and where such prominent speakers as Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas spoke.

At the southwest corner of Washington and Center Streets (Peoples Bank), Abraham Brokaw bought lots shortly after he came here from New Jersey in 1836 at a cost of \$125. Here he, Lewis Bunn, and Oliver Ellsworth went into the manufacture of plows. The business prospered and the names of Brokaw, Bunn, and Ellsworth were well known throughout the country. Later Mr. Brokaw sold the property for \$25,000.

The Daily Pantagraph (62) was established in 1846, with William Osborn Davis as an early editor. (He came here from Pennsylvania in 1858 and married Jesse Fell's daughter, Eliza.) Mr. Davis later



became the owner and publisher of The Pantagraph; the management remains in the family today. The building is located on Washington (north side) between Madison and Roosevelt.

The First Christian Church (63), northwest corner of Jefferson and Roosevelt Streets, was organized in Bloomington in 1837. Amasa C. Washburn, Bloomington's first school teacher, was one of the organizers.

The passenger station for the Illinois Traction System (64) was located at the southwest corner of Madison and Jefferson Streets for many years. This electric-powered railway, which eventually had twenty-eight and one-half miles of track in McLean County, ran the first cars from Decatur to Bloomington in 1906. Later lines were extended west from Bloomington to Peoria, which connected at Mackinaw Junction with cars from Springfield to Peoria.

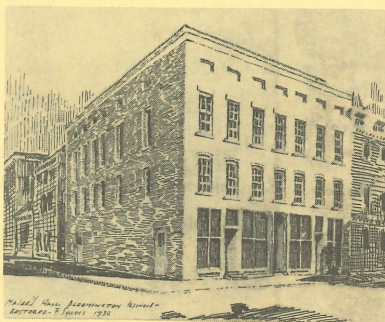
On the north side of the square is the store established in 1873 by C. W. Klemm (65), who came here from Germany. An overall and shirt factory was also operated by the family.

At the northeast corner of Washington and East Streets is Withers Public Library (66), so named because Mrs. Sarah B. Withers donated the family home site to the Library in 1882. Allen Withers came from Kentucky to Bloomington in 1834 and went to work in Covell's store. Later he went into the dry goods business with William H. Temple in 1847. He retired to his farm south of Bloomington. Although there were no children, he adopted several children and freed a negro boy who refused to leave. The statue in the park east of the library is the work of Lorado Taft; the fountain was presented by Georgiana Trotter. A painting of Vice-President Adlai E. Stevenson is on

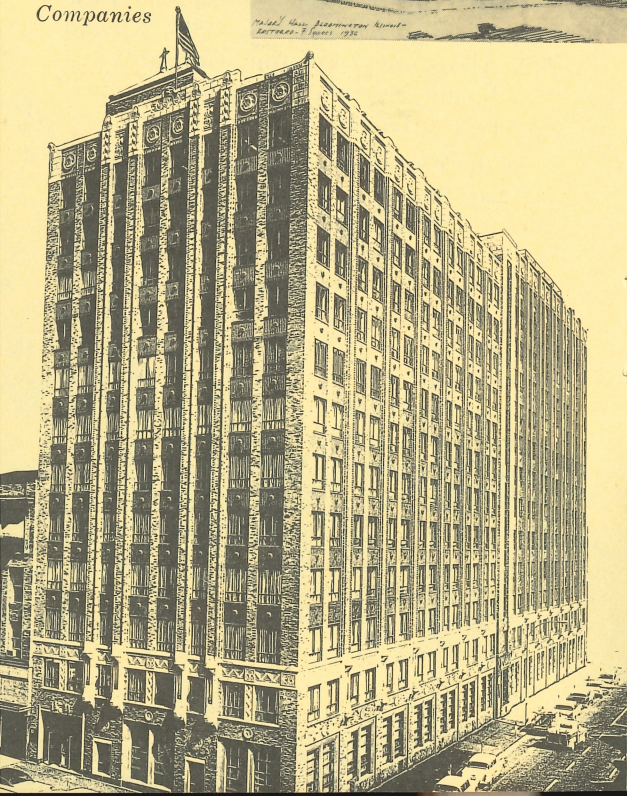
*Trotter Memorial*



*Major's Hall*



*State Farm  
Insurance  
Companies*





the second floor.

At the southwest corner of East and Front Streets is the marker indicating that Abraham Lincoln's "Lost Speech" was made in Major's Hall on May 29, 1856. William Trabue Major came here from Kentucky in 1835. A deeply religious man who believed that the Bible should rule his faith was known as "Elder" Major. Founder of the Christian Church in Bloomington and contributor to Eureka and Bethany Colleges, he built the Female College of Bloomington in 1856 on Front Street, near East Street. The hall served as a meeting place; first classes of Normal University were held here from 1857 to 1861.

The State Farm Insurance Company was organized in 1923, by George J. Mecherle in Bloomington. Today the name, State Farm, is known all over the world. The home office is located at the northwest corner of Washington and East Streets.

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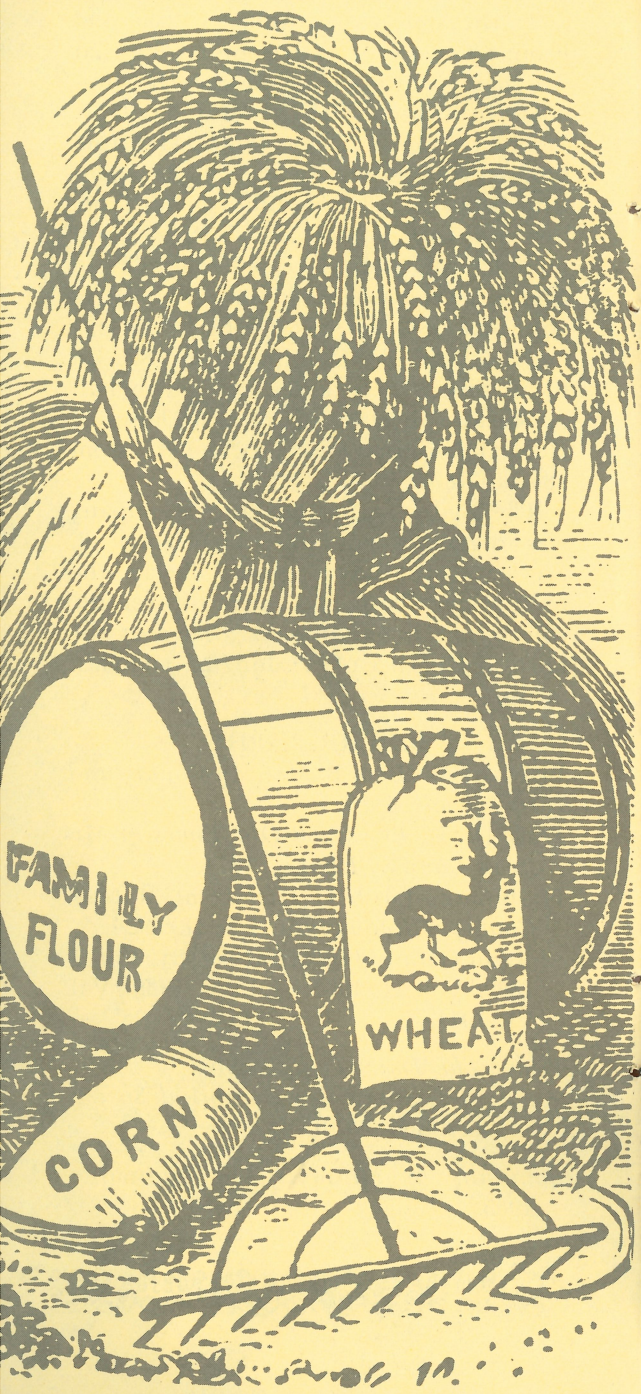
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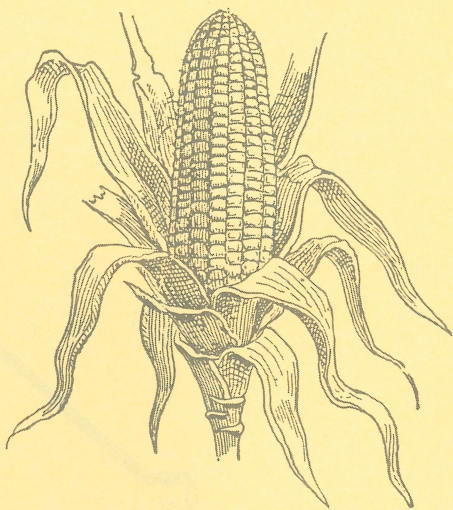
Files: *The Daily Pantagraph*  
*McLean County Historical Society*  
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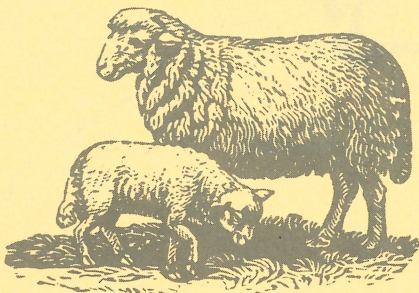


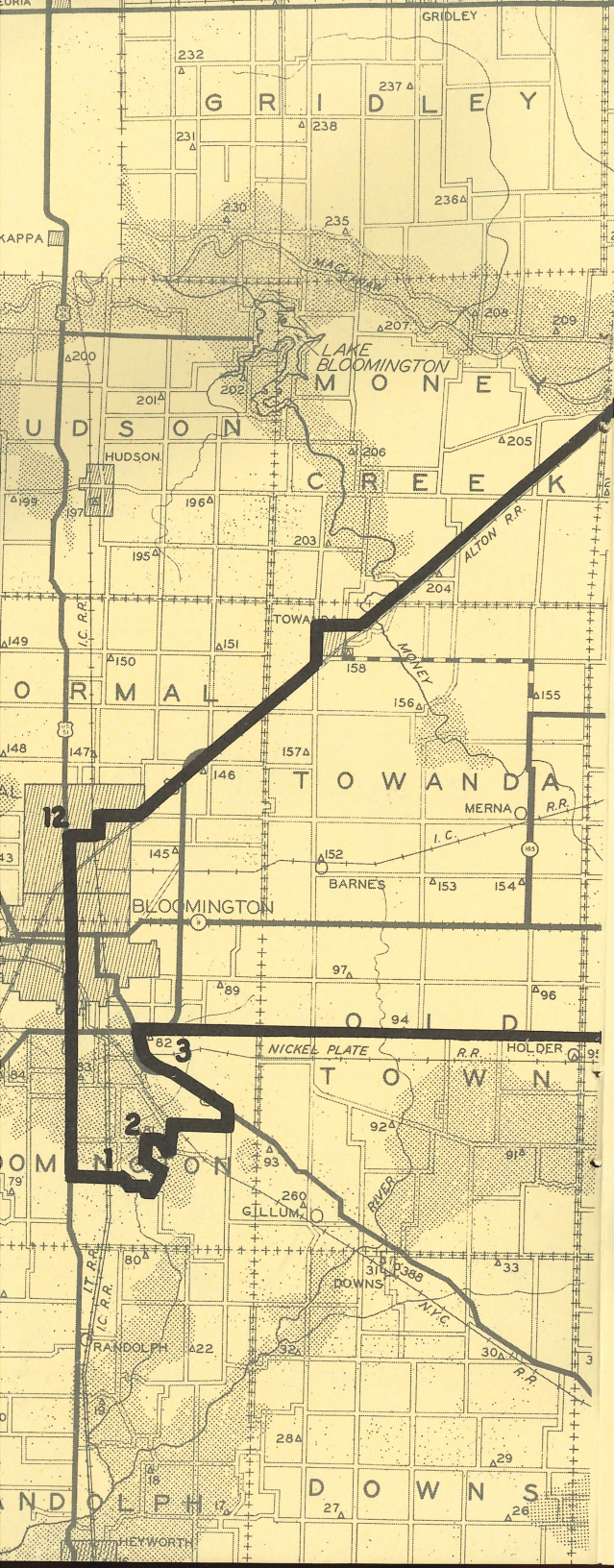


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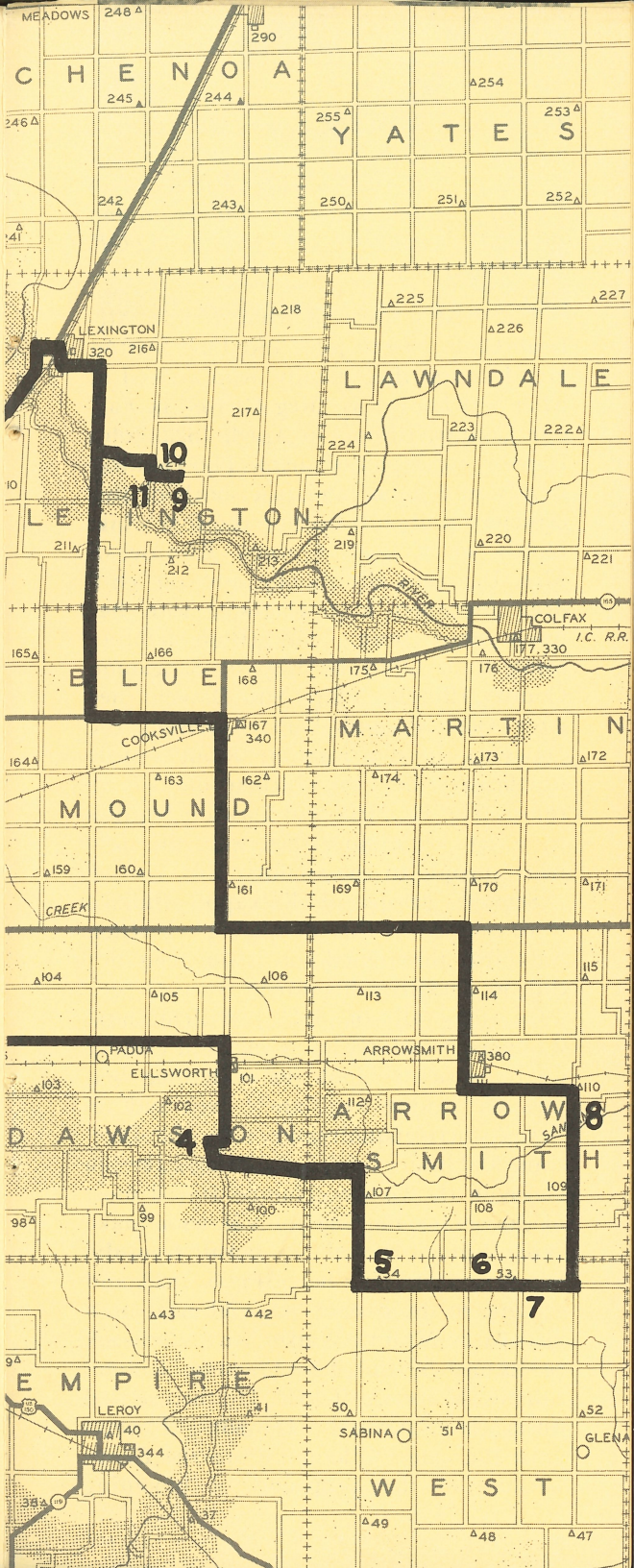
Suggested Tour  
of  
Eastern  
McLean County

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*Leave parking lot at Grove & Main Streets, Bloomington. Proceed south on Main (U. S. 51) to first road leading left south of Colonial Motel. Turn left and go to end of road, then left to cemetery. (1) STOP.*

The first settlers in what is now McLean County were John and Jane Britton Hendrix and their family, who arrived at what was known as "Keg Grove" in Fayette County, Illinois in April, 1822. John Dawson accompanied them. The Hendrix family settled on land just south of this cemetery, and thus became the first white family in McLean County. Because of Mrs. Dawson's illness, she and the children remained in Springfield with her uncle until June, 1822. (Both families came from Ohio by way of Sangamon County, Illinois.) When Mrs. Dawson (nee Ann Cheney) and family arrived, the Dawsons chose a location about a mile northeast of here on which to build their cabin. The Hendrix and Dawson families were very close since they were the only white people in the vicinity.

Several groups of Kickapoo Indians were camped in this vicinity. Their chief, Machina, threatened the white men but did not carry out his threat.

In the fall of 1822, William and Thomas Orendorff left Sangamon County on horseback to look for something better. They came to "Keg Grove" and renewed their acquaintance with the Dawsons and the Hendrixes. Each staked a claim in the Grove. Thomas stayed most of the winter, helping John Dawson make rails. William brought his family from the Sangamon, arriving here May 3, 1823, and settling to the east of here. Thomas married Mary Malina Walker in a ceremony performed by the Rev. Ebenezer Rhodes during the spring of 1824. He then settled on a claim near the Dawsons. Thomas gave the name "Blooming" to the Grove because of the profusion of blooming





*Orendorff Monument*

flowers and trees in spring.

William Orendorff was appointed justice of the peace of Fayette County, Illinois, by Governor Coles in 1825, and again when Tazewell County was formed in 1827. (McLean County was a part of Fayette, later Tazewell.) Thomas Orendorff was appointed the first assessor of McLean County after it was formed in 1830. (Thomas Orendorff and James Latta carried the petition to Vandalia, capital of Illinois, requesting formation of McLean County in 1830.) Many descendants of the Orendorff families are yet living in the County.

In this cemetery—Blooming Grove—are buried the Hendrixes, members of the Orendorff families and many other early settlers.

The marker noting that the Hendrix and Dawson families were first settlers is in the southeast corner of the cemetery. It was moved here from its former site east of Walker School grounds.

The first house in McLean County, John Hendrix's, was made of rough, unhewed logs, chinked with chunks of wood and clay. The one-room cabin's fireplace was accommodated by a stick chimney plastered with clay. A crude puncheon floor kept out some of the cold and dampness. The slab door was hung on wooden hinges and a shutter covered the "windowless" window. Most furniture was home-made.

During the first year or so, corn was taken to Sangamon County to mill until

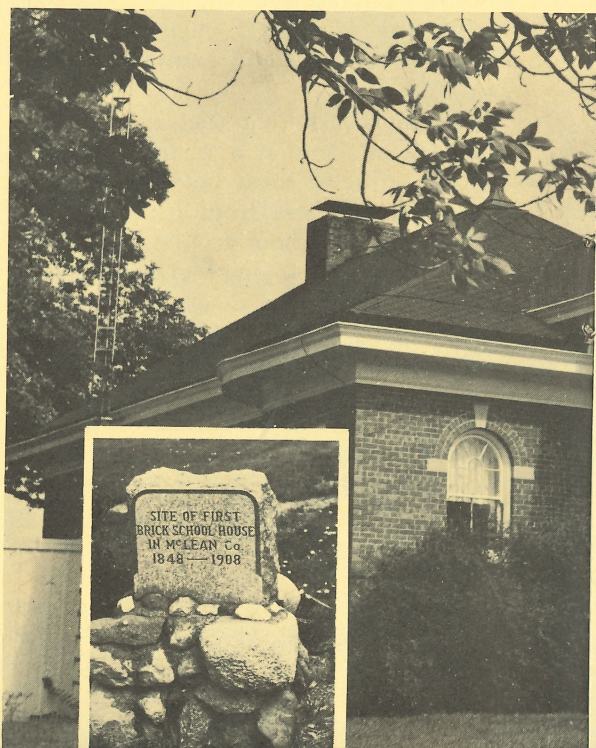
a mill was built by Ebenezer Rhodes. Leather for shoes and boots was made from beef skins taken to the tannery in Sangamon County.

Livestock brought by the Hendrix family included two oxen, five milk cows plus nineteen young cattle, three horses, and twenty-five to thirty sheep. Brood sows were bought after they came to Blooming Grove.

Both cotton and flax were raised. From these and the wool from the sheep, cloth was made for clothing, blankets, and other items as well as yarn for knitting.

The circular wigwams of the Indians were made of bark, usually, with a little opening at the top to let out the smoke. Animal skins on the ground around the campfire furnished a place to sit and sleep.

The Jonathan Cheney family arrived at Blooming Grove October 16, 1825 and stopped with the Dawson family. In two weeks they moved on to Cheney's Grove



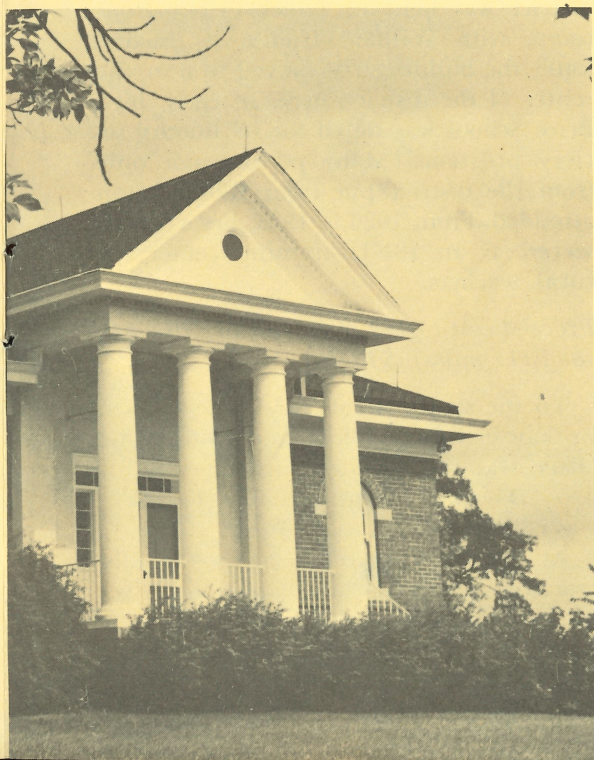


where they settled. Mr. Cheney was born in Virginia but settled in 1806 in Champaign County, Ohio, where they farmed before coming to Illinois.

*Proceed north to end of road (3/4 mile). Turn right across bridge over the Kickapoo. STOP.*

Here on this beautiful ten-acre tract stood Walker School, (2) named for William Walker who donated the half-acre for the first frame schoolhouse which was located three-fourths mile west of the Walker School building which was erected in 1903, bought by the Alan Sycles, and made into the attractive dwelling which you see to the rear of this tract. Enclosed behind a fence east of the Sycle house is a marker telling of the first brick schoolhouse in the county. For ten years the school was affiliated with Illinois State Normal University in training teachers for rural schools.

*Walker School*



*Go to first road leading left. Proceed on it to rise south of the first residence on the right (Evar Hanell residence).*

To the right of this road stood the cabin which the John Dawson family built in 1822. The first school in the county was taught by Delilah Mullin in the John Dawson cabin. Three log school-houses were built at various times in this vicinity before the frame house mentioned above was constructed.

*Go to end of road. Turn right over r. r. tracks. Follow road to U. S. 150. Proceed north on 150 to blacktop road leading right across from Brandtville. Turn right on blacktop past old Price School (3) (right).*

The first postoffice named Blooming Grove was opened in 1829 in a building on the Price farm. Rev. William See was appointed postmaster. When the Blooming Grove school district was divided in 1845, the first school in the newly formed district was held in James Price's front room, with William Hodge as teacher. Later the building was moved to near the center of the district, here. In early days, Price School was noted for its literary society programs. Many persons not only from the district but from Bloomington attended. From 1926 to 1935, Price School served as an ISNU training center for rural teachers.

*Proceed east to 1/2 mile west of Ellsworth road (13 miles). STOP.*

To the south of this road, one can see Brokaw elevator, Holder, and Padua. The latter was the leading town in what is now Dawson Township. The township was called Padua until 1891.

As the road proceeds east to the Ellsworth road, it crosses the Sangamon River almost at its source. The Bloomington moraine which we have followed is the



watershed for two great rivers, which have their sources in McLean County. The Sangamon is one, the Mackinaw is the other. Its source will be pointed out later in the trip.

*Go to Ellsworth road. Turn right through Ellsworth to the first crossroad (about 1 3/4 mi.). STOP.*

Here you can see faint traces of the original 14,200 acres which comprised Old Town Timber (4). Settlers made their homes in the groves which afforded protection from the elements, lumber for building, and water usually found in nearby streams meandering through the groves. If you turn right at this corner and go back toward Bloomington on it, you will be following the old Indian trail, the one used by the Indians in going back and forth between Blooming Grove and the "Old Indian Town" inhabited by the Kickapoos. The town was just to the right of this intersection.

John Dawson sold out his Blooming Grove claim in 1826 and followed the trail to a site about three-fourths mile east of here (left). Here he established an inn for travelers. He sold grain, meat, and supplies to settlers who were moving west. A log schoolhouse was constructed which doubled as a church. A cemetery, which bears his name, was begun on the hill. The Dawson family felt the urge to move westward, too, so they left in 1853 and settled near Ft. Dodge, Iowa, where they remained until their deaths.

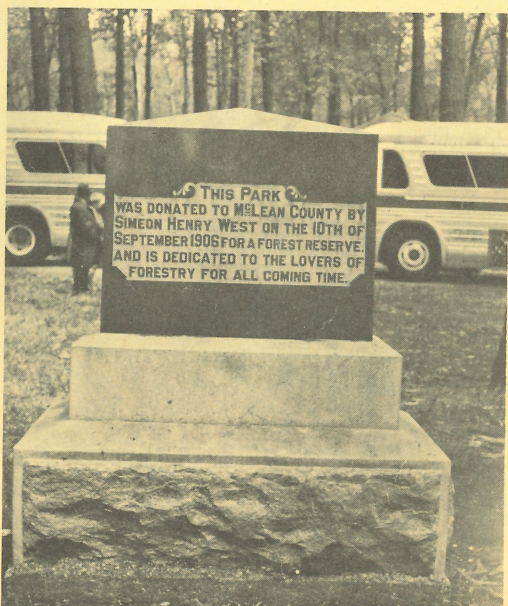
From 1885 until 1910, Old Settlers' Association picnics were held annually in what was known as Betzer Park, just south of this intersection (right). Attendance reached as high as eight thousand. These celebrations were attended by families in reunion, by people coming from all directions in all manner of conveyances. Special trains came from Bloomington, which

were met by hacks that would seat ten to twelve persons for the ride to the park. Bands, speakers of renown, and a merry-go-round for the children added to the gala occasions. New horse troughs filled with water were hauled to the scene, along with a generous supply of tin cups. There was a permanent bandstand, seating accommodations, and toilet facilities.

*Turn left to second road leading right. Turn right to first road leading left. Turn left into West Park. (5) STOP.*

This township was not settled until 1850. One of its early settlers was Henry West, who came here from Kentucky in 1851 and settled one mile southeast of the Kickapoo Indian Fort in Section 5 (east of here). Mr. West became the first supervisor of the township (organized in 1857) which bears his name. His influence prevented the sale of the township's school section (the 16th section as provided in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787). His foresight enabled the township to operate its schools efficiently and economically because the income from the school sec-

*West Monument / LeRoy*





tion supplemented other moneys.

Henry's son, Simeon West, was an adventurer in the Old West at the time of the gold rush. After Simeon's marriage in 1863, he settled in West Township to follow in his father's footsteps as supervisor from West Township in 1873. His success in politics led to his election to the State Legislature for two terms, 1882 and 1884. An ardent spiritualist in religious beliefs, he was responsible for the hard road law, including regulation of traction engines on hard roads; an important drainage law; and economical government. In September, 1906, Mr. West presented to McLean County this twenty acres as a forest preserve. Not less than five acres is to remain in its natural condition forever.

*Turn left out of the park. Go to first crossroad. STOP.*

On the hill to the northeast of this intersection can be seen the monument which marks the site of the stockaded fort of the Kickapoo Indians. Built in 1752, it was not generally used unless there was trouble. General Zachary Taylor led an expedition against the Indians at Old Town in 1812. The Fort was destroyed in 1813. In 1819 titles to all Indian lands were relinquished by them in treaties signed, but the Kickapoos did not leave the county until ordered to do so by the government in 1832. The white settlers and Indians had a farewell celebration, an event tinged with sadness. Simeon West was largely responsible for the erection of this monument.

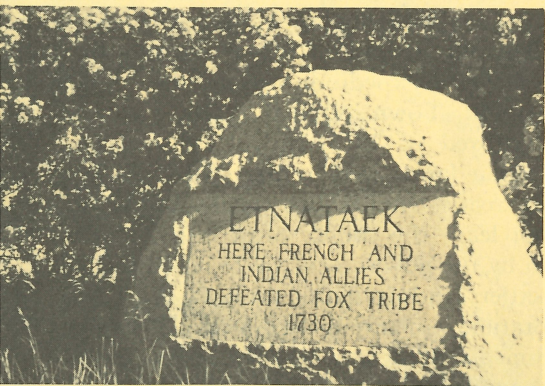
*Proceed on to third house on right. STOP.*

This is the Henry West home (7). The original house has been added to and remodeled. When Abraham Lincoln and Judge Davis traveled this circuit, they frequently stayed overnight.

*Proceed to first crossroad. Turn left. Go to third crossroad (2 1/2 mi.). Turn right*

to first crossroad (2 mi.), then left to end of road, then right 1/4 mile. STOP. (Marker just beyond Smith lane.) (8)

On the banks of the Sangamon River behind this farm home of Roy Smith, a fierce battle was fought in 1730 between the Fox Indians and the French with other Indian allies. The Fox Indians had aroused the wrath of the French because they had captured and killed traders sent out by the French. Knowing that trouble was near, the Fox tribe set out from Starved Rock to move their women and children to safety with Eastern tribes, while they were at war. The Foxes dug in and rested at this place on the Sangamon. Meanwhile, the French Commandant near Detroit was notified by Illinois Indian runners. Soon the Fox camp was surrounded. The twenty-three day battle which began August 17, 1730, ended in defeat and almost total annihilation of the Foxes.



*Etnataek Monument*

Early settlers in this vicinity noticed the strange earthworks, rifle pits, old bullets, and other evidences. Excavations were begun as early as 1897 and yielded bullets, knife blades, ornaments, pistol barrels, iron chain links, and gun locks. Other discoveries were made at later dates. Old French maps and records es-



tablish this as Etnataek, the site of this famous battle, beyond any doubt. The marker was placed here by the McLean County Historical Society.

*Turn back west from Smith lane to end of road. Jog right, then left (2 mi.) to Arrowsmith road. Turn right on Arrowsmith road (north), through Arrowsmith. This road crosses the source of the Mackinaw River about a mile north of town. Proceed to Ill. 9, turn left to Cooksville Road. Turn right to Cooksville, then left on Ill. 165 to second crossroad (2 1/2 mi.). Turn right and go to fifth crossroad (5 mi.). Turn right to end of road, right 1/4 mi., then left across creek to first house on right. Pull into barnyard. STOP.*

John Patton built a log cabin on this hill (dismantled Sept. 18, 1965). The Patton family came to Mackinaw Timber from Kentucky via Indiana in March, 1829. They settled in two bark wigwams of a



*Patton Cabin / Lexington*

Kickapoo Indian village. The Indians, who were away on a winter hunt, soon returned and demanded that the Pattons leave, but Mr. Patton refused to do so. Peaceful relations were established when Mr. Patton mended the Indians' guns. By June, 1829, Patton had hewn by hand enough logs for a "house-raising." Word

went out to nearby settlements and everybody within a day's journey came to assist. The Indians helped lift the heavy logs into place, and later joined with the settlers in the feast that followed. Built of oak timbers, some measuring ten inches through, the roof was of split shingles four feet long held in place by weight poles. A stick chimney, plastered inside and out with clay, accommodated the six-foot wide fireplace. A puncheon floor, one window, and a walnut door, pinned with wooden pins, completed the sturdy structure. Not much iron, if any, went into the building. In the summer of 1832, a block house was added to the west, which afforded protection to settlers in the area during the Black Hawk War. In 1840, the two structures were joined into a fifty by eighteen foot building with glass windows set in walnut frames, walnut doors, cupboards, a matched oak floor, and two brick fireplaces. As you might have guessed, John Patton was a master of a number of trades—farming, gunsmith, mechanic, blacksmith. Both the iron and woodwork of plows were made by him. A Methodist, he was professor of religion, so it naturally followed that the Patton house was used as a meeting house. The Pattons resided here until Mr. Patton's death in 1852.

At the annual dinner meeting of the McLean County Historical Society April 25, 1963, Mrs. Ruth B. Reynolds presented the cabin to the Society (now dismantled).

*Retrace route, turning left from farmyard to end of road. Turn right, then left at first road. Proceed to cemetery. STOP.*

Pleasant Hill (10) was laid out in 1850 by Isaac Smalley, with an additional forty-eight lots in 1852. The beautiful natural setting prompted the name. At its peak, the town boasted three or four stores, three churches, blacksmith shops, cabinet shops, two or more physicians, a

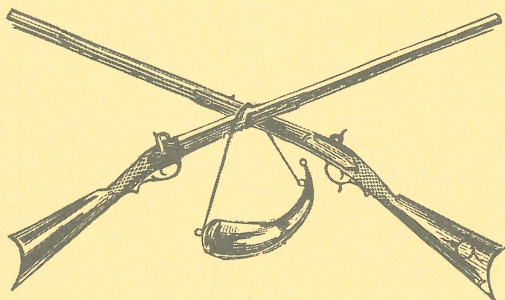


female seminary with seventeen rooms, a two-teacher school, and a saw mill. With the location of the Alton & Sangamon Railroad (G. M. & O.) to the west in 1853 and the Toledo, Peoria & Western Railroad built to the north in 1857, Pleasant Hill went into rapid decline. The final blow was the removal of the post office (called Selma because another town in Illinois was called Pleasant Hill). There are few remnants of the once prosperous town.

In this Pleasant Hill Cemetery, (11) you can trace the name of families who once resided here. The wooden tombstones are of special interest.

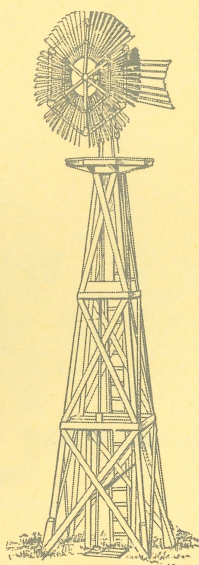
*Turn right on first blacktop. Proceed north 1 1/4 mi. Turn left into Lexington. Through Lexington to Route 66, left on 66 to Normal via City 66 to end of Willow at Main. Cross Main to Hudelson Museum of Agriculture. STOP. (12)*

Agricultural tools through the years are exhibited here. *Return to Bloomington.*





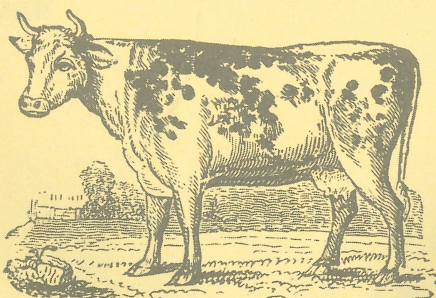


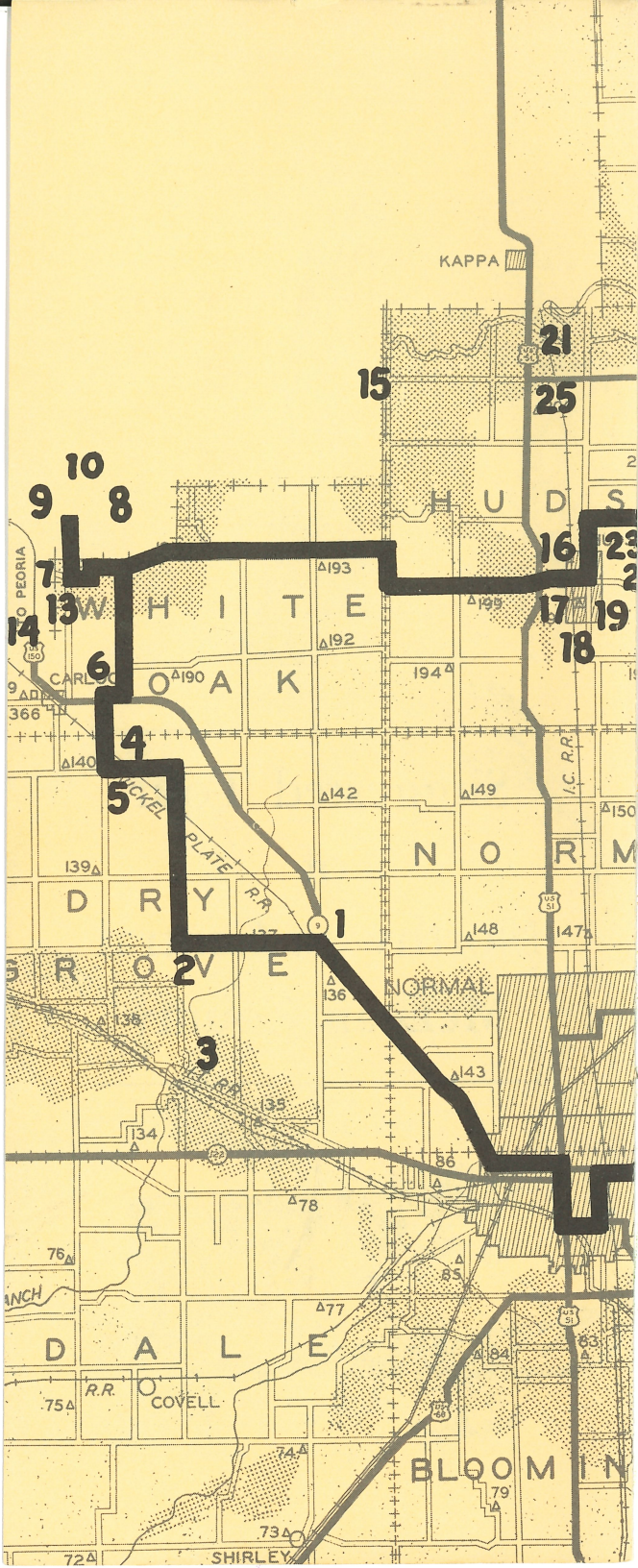


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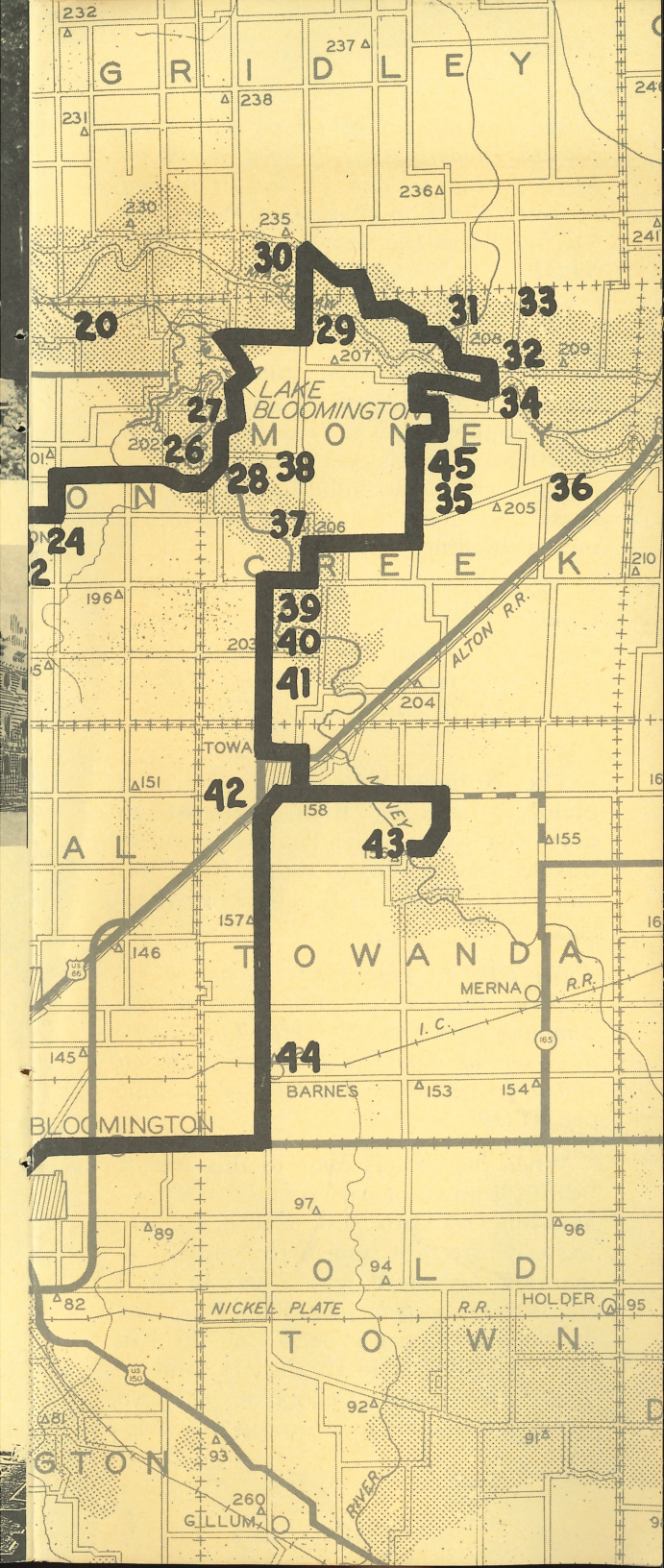
Suggested Tour  
of  
Northwest-Central  
McLean County

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*Leave parking lot at Grove and Main Streets, Bloomington. Proceed north on Main to Locust. Left on Locust to end of street. Right on White Oak Road (U.S. 150) to Yuton-Danvers Road. Turn left. STOP.*

Here was the "shopping center" of eastern Dry Grove Township and western Normal Township. At one time, Yuton (1) had a post office, general store, railroad water supply tank, elevator, and several dwellings. The elevator remains (right); on the left is the building which once served as a general store and post office, now a dwelling.

*Proceed to second crossroad (past Dry Grove Center School - right). Here is Dry Grove Town Hall (2) on southeast corner; 11½ miles south is King's Mill (3) Turn right to end of road. STOP.*

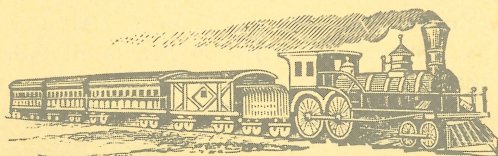
The Normal Moraine can be seen plainly, stretching from southeast to northwest. On this high land was a widely traveled trail leading to Indian Point (14) and Ft. Clark on the Illinois River (Peoria).

*Turn left; go past Lantz Cemetery (4) (right). Proceed to corner beyond the cemetery. (Interstate 74 - left.) Turn right; go to end of road (U.S. 150); turn right on 150 to first road leading left; go ½ mile. (6) STOP.*

When the settlers came to this area, a beautiful grove of oak trees, later known as White Oak Grove, extended in a northwesterly direction from here. Smith Denman and his family settled here in 1829; the Bensons, sons of John, Sr., who settled at Blooming Grove in 1823, came here in the 1830's; Abraham W. Carlock came in 1836; the Stephen Taylors in 1837. All these families took up claims in this vicinity.



Although these settlers were well established, it was not until July 17, 1879 that the village of Oak Grove (6) was platted. Its greatest prosperity was from 1878 to 1888 when there were two general stores, a drug store, post office, blacksmith shop, cabinet shop, mill, harness and shoe shop, large public hall, and eighteen or twenty dwellings. It was predicted at the time that, with or without a railroad, Oak Grove would be a permanent town. However, when the Lake Erie and Western Railroad was built to the southwest, the post office was moved to the railroad at Carlock during the summer of 1888. The village of Carlock was laid out January 5, 1888 on land owned by John F. Carlock. The first trains from Peoria to Bloomington were run over the new railroad in the spring of 1889. Shortly thereafter, Oak Grove began to dwindle; about half the buildings were moved to Carlock. One can recognize what once were streets; only a few dwellings remain. The "old trail road," which is no longer used, continued from Oak Grove to Indian Point and beyond.



*Go to first crossroad (end of blacktop); turn left. Go to first crossroad; turn right, go about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to Lincoln marker (7) (left). STOP.*

The marker reads: Abraham Lincoln Traveled This Way as He Rode the Eighth Judicial District - 1847-1859. Stone posts (right) mark the Woodford-McLean County boundaries.

*Go to cemetery (right) (8). STOP*

John, James, and William Benson, sons of John Benson, Sr., settled in the White

Oak Grove area in the early 1830's. John, Sr., a soldier of Tippecanoe under General Harrison, came to Blooming Grove in 1823; he was elected first treasurer of Tazewell County in 1827 when McLean County was part of Tazewell County; he was also the assessor. After Mrs. Benson's death, John, Sr., joined his sons here; they owned several hundred acres of land in this vicinity. The Bensons were good neighbors, quite firm in their political beliefs as Whigs. One will find the Benson graves in this cemetery which is known as the Republican Cemetery.

*Proceed to cemetery on left (9). STOP.*

Abraham Willard Carlock, who came to the White Oak Grove area in 1836, was widely known as the "Old Democrat." The odd shape of McLean County which leaves White Oak Township as little less than half of one congressional township is due to the difference in political beliefs of the Bensons and Carlocks whose farm-lands adjoined near here. The Carlocks desired to live in Democratic Woodford County when it was formed; the Bensons were quite content to remain in Whig (Republican) McLean County. Abraham W. Carlock is buried in the family plot to the rear (right) of this cemetery, which is appropriately called the Democrat Cemetery.

*Proceed beyond the cemetery to set of buildings on left (10). Go to second entrance; turn left, following curved driveway to left. STOP.*

Down this barely discernible trail to the northwest was the site of Sulphur Springs, widely known health resort, to which people came for miles around. A horse-drawn "jitney-bus" hauled people to the resort from the railroad at Carlock. Facilities for treatment by the healing sulphur water included a hotel, with din-



ing room for guests, and several cottages, one of which remains here.

When McLean County was organized it extended from Range 1 West to Range 6 East of the Third Principal Meridian, and from 21 North to the Illinois River; the area which now lies in Woodford County was part of McLean County. Two of the most colorful communities were Bowling Green (11) and Versailles (12) which were located to the north and west. Francis M. Willis laid out the town of Bowling Green on Panther Creek, March 7, 1836. Bowling Green grew; at one time it "outshone" the small hamlet of Bloomington. Mr. Willis owned two lots in Bloomington on which he paid four cents taxes; he finally turned them in to a tax sale, saying that Bowling Green property was all he needed. Establishments at Bowling Green at its peak included a grist mill, saw mill, several general stores and small shops, tavern, doctors' offices, whiskey distillery (whiskey was a reliable antidote for ague and snakebite), and several residences. People came from Bloomington to Bowling Green to shop. During these early days, the water transportation provided by the Illinois River accounted for the rapid growth of the settlement; Bloomington was farther from the Illinois.

Nearby Versailles was established June 3, 1836, by R. M. Bullock and John S. Beatty. The rivalry between the two settlements rose to a high pitch when each bid to be county seat of Woodford County when it was organized. It appeared for a time that it was an even match until Versailles finally won out; its rejoicing was short-lived since the county seat was moved to Hanover (Eureka) in 1843. Had it not been for the gravel roads and steep hills, this trip would have included the former site of Bowling Green which is indicated by a marker. Nothing remains

of the village.

*Go along driveway to the south and east out onto the highway; turn right and proceed to crossroad south of cemeteries. STOP.*

The old trail road from Oak Grove angled back of the brick house which stands to the right. The Abraham W. Carlock (13) log cabin was on this old trail which led to the high ground just beyond the Carlock home to the southwest, known as Indian point (14); it was a favorite gathering spot of the Indians who used it as a "look-out" because of its elevation. Abraham W. Carlock was a hospitable person; wayfarers were welcomed. Abraham Lincoln stayed several nights at the Carlock home on journeys along this road to hold court at Metamora.

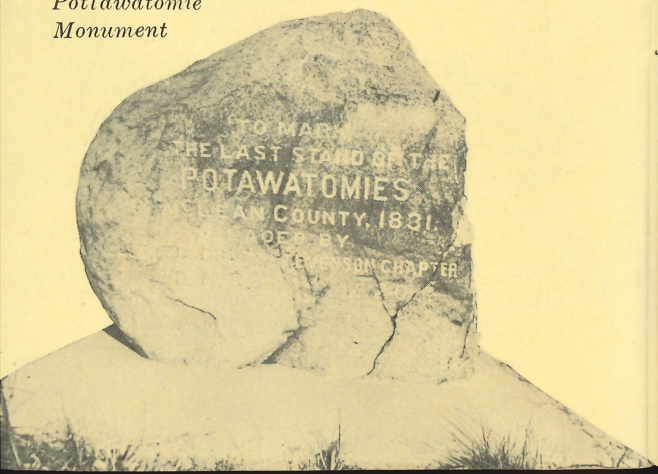
*Turn left and proceed to end of road. STOP.*

About two and one-half miles north on this road (left) is the site of the proposed "new" Lake Bloomington (15).

*Turn right; then left. Just beyond the first crossroad, one can see the remains of Havens' Grove (16) which originally was 2,080 acres. Go across Rt. 51. STOP.*

The monument on roadside to left (17) marks the "last stand" of the Pottawato-

*Pottawatomie  
Monument*





mie Indians who inhabited this region along Six Mile Creek; they left here in 1831, shortly after the white men came. The Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the D.A.R. placed the marker in 1920.

The Harberts came here in 1828 or 1829; they were followed by Jesse Havens, a soldier in the War of 1812, who came here from Virginia via Ohio, Big Grove, Illinois (Urbana) and Buckles Grove (LeRoy). He married Rebecca Hinthorn in Ohio; she shared in the rigors of pioneer life, bearing eleven children. Jesse Havens was one of the first commissioners of McLean County when it was organized. The steps led to the old Havens homestead, known as Havenhurst (18); it was occupied by the Carrithers family in more recent years (Mrs. Carrithers was a Havens). The Havens Cemetery (19) lies to the right just beyond here.

*Go to Broadway by way of the downtown district. STOP.* (Subway too low for buses.)

The township and village of Hudson took their names from Hudson, New York, former home of some of the men who entered land in February, 1836, under the name of the Illinois Land Association at Jacksonville, Illinois. Horatio N. Pettit, John Gregory, and George F. Durkitt promoted a colony in this location, whereby easterners were enticed with an offer of 160 acres of land (to include some timber), four lots in the town of Hudson, and a share in the profits of the land speculation scheme for the sum of \$235. Because there was not sufficient timber land here for all, some members left. Early settlers were James Smith and Benjamin Wheeler (sons-in-law of Jesse Havens), the Hinthorns, Elijah Priest, Isaac Messer, Isaac Turnipseed; members of the early Hudson Colony were John Magoun, James H. Robinson, Oliver March, James and Joseph Gildersleeve, Jacob Burtis,

and Samuel P. Cox. Houses in the Hudson Colony were made from sawed lumber rather than of logs. J. Moats erected a sawmill (20) in 1836 on the Mackinaw; in 1845 or 1846 George Mason built and operated a grist mill on the Mackinaw (21) which was used as late as 1890; David Trimmer was the first blacksmith in Hudson.

Broadway has a width of 120 feet; all other streets in the original plat of Hudson have 80-foot dedication. It was intended that Broadway would be the main street of the town, but when the Illinois Central Railroad was completed from Bloomington to LaSalle in May, 1853, the business district sprang up facing the railroad.

*Go to Gildersleeve Homestead (23).  
STOP.*

Here is one of the remaining landmarks of Hudson. The marker, placed by the Normal Optimist Club in 1933, labels it as the Gildersleeve Homestead, home of Melville Stone first editor of the Chicago Daily News, and one of the founders of the Associated Press. In addition to these distinctions, this residence was long known as Five Oaks because of the five giant oaks growing from a single clump in the backyard, the residence of Tommy Stevenson, brother of Vice-President Adlai Stevenson. The many scrapbooks which Mr. Stevenson kept contain historical items; they have been placed in the Museum at Illinois State University.

*Go north on Broadway to first cross street. STOP.*

The marker indicates that this was the home (and office) of Dr. Silas Hubbard (24), father of the well-known author, Elbert Hubbard (of scrapbook fame) who was born here.



*Proceed to first road leading right. STOP.*

On May 21, 1852, Isaac Smalley (founder of Pleasant Hill near Lexington), H. D. Cook (father of John W. Cook, President of Illinois State Normal University from 1890 to 1900), J. M. Hill, and Thomas P. Kerr laid out the village of Oneida. The plat shows that the main east and west street was to be called Broadway; a railroad depot was to be located on it. Mr. Smalley was so sure that what is now known as the Toledo, Peoria & Western Railroad would pass through Oneida and Pleasant Hill that he plowed a furrow through the two towns to the Indiana line to mark its location. Unfortunately Mr. Smalley died of smallpox in 1855; his fight for the railroad was not successful - it was located to run through El Paso, Gridley, and Chenoa. Oneida was doomed, the town plat was vacated in January, 1897. There are conflicting historical accounts as to where the village of Oneida was located; however, the school which bore the name, Oneida, was finally located on the east side of U.S. 51 (25) just south of the Lake Bloomington Road (across the road from the race horse farm).

*Turn right to first crossroad; then left to first road leading right. Follow road across to Hinthorn Chapel (26) (left). STOP.*

*Hinthorn Chapel / Lake Bloomington.*



In 1837 Adam Hinthorn built a mill (27) on Money Creek just to the rear of this chapel which bears the name, Hinthorn. It is presumed that the Hinthorns came to this region because of Rebecca Hinthorn's marriage to Jesse Havens. Many descendants of the Hinthorn family are living in McLean County; many are buried in the cemetery here.

*Proceed to end of road. STOP.*

Money Creek Township is named for the creek which flows in a northwesterly direction through it. Along the creek was abundant timber; early government surveys showed 8,908 acres of wooded land in the township. Lewis Sowards settled in 1825; when neighbors began to move in, he went to Wisconsin. Jacob Harness came about the same time; in 1826 Jacob Spawr took up a claim on lower Money Creek near Towanda. The Samuel Ogden family came to Money Creek timber in the fall of 1831; they settled on a claim just southeast of here. (28)

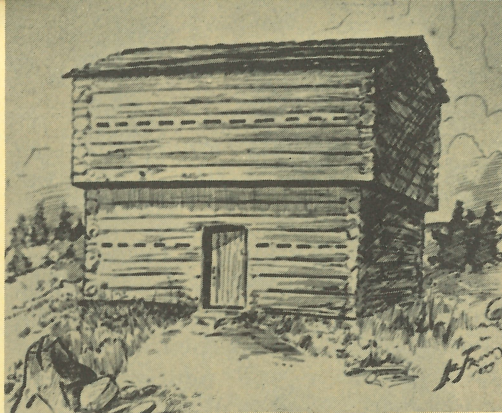
*Turn left and go to Three Bears area of East Bay Camp. Follow lake road to Gregory Chapel (right). Go to end of road; turn right to Gridley road, then left over the Fifer Bridge. (29)*

The small settlement of Fifer was to the northwest of this bridge. A store and blacksmith shop were located in Fifer about 1899.

*Proceed to first crossroad. STOP. (30)*

On the southwest corner one can see the steps which led to Gregory Chapel in the years before it was moved to the East Bay area. "Prepare to meet Thy God," the sign in large letters on the front of the church, greeted travelers who dared travel the treacherously muddy roads in





*Block House / Money Creek*

the vicinity in early days; it reminded them that their earthly ties might be severed soon. The road which one travels to the right follows the old trail on the north side of the Mackinaw River. Travelers and settlers desiring to reach this area followed a trail from the southeast, crossing the Mackinaw before it reached the width that it is here. The Mackinaw Timber contained 20,960 acres according to early government figures; little remains today.

*Turn right and follow the road to Clarksville jogging right and left. Pause at the second bridge. (31)*

Isaac Messer who settled near here in the 1830s was a great hunter of game. One time when he was hunting in the vicinity of Lexington, he saw some turkey tracks near a creek which flowed into the Mackinaw, so he named it Turkey Creek, a name it bears today. Later he came to this creek; here he wounded a buck, hence the name Buck Creek.

*Gregory Chapel / Lake Bloomington*



*Proceed to lane just beyond next road leading left; keep to Old Trail Road. STOP.*

In 1830 General Joseph Bartholomew came to Money Creek Township from Bartholomew County, Indiana, which was named for him. As a boy, General Bartholomew assisted in the Revolutionary War; he took part in Indian Wars in Ohio; in the battle of Tippecanoe he was placed in command of the infantry militia by General Harrison; he was promoted to rank of general. Shortly after coming here, the Black Hawk War broke out, bringing fear of Indian raids to this area even though the intense warring was to the northwest. General Bartholomew led a delegation of settlers to visit the Indians who assured the settlers that the Indians had no intention of going on the warpath against McLean County settlers. General Bartholomew's distrust of their vow led him to urge settlers in the Mackinaw timber area to protect themselves by constructing blockhouses or fortifying cabins; the Money Creek Blockhouse was built under his direction in this vicinity in 1832 (32) (to the northeast of the lane).

General Bartholomew and his son, Marston, laid out Clarksville July 15, 1836. Within three or four years, Clarksville had a two-story hotel, a store, a blacksmith shop, a shoemaker shop, a tailor's shop, carding mill, cabinet shop, saloon or grocery as it was called, and about twenty or thirty dwellings. The first store built at Lexington did not prosper so it was moved to Clarksville. Some few dwellings remain, scattered along the old trail, as you can see. General Bartholomew was laid to rest in the cemetery at the top of the hill, his grave guarded by the few trees which you see there, in contrast to the mighty timber which once covered this section of the

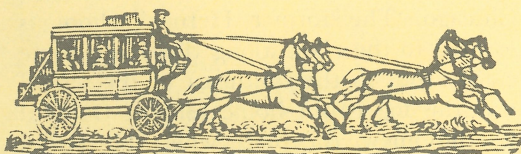


County. Overexertion led to the General's death in 1840 as he lent his efforts in the presidential campaign of his old commander, William Henry Harrison.

*Proceed to Church; turn right to end of road. STOP.*

The first United Brethren church in Illinois was organized in Money Creek Township in 1830. The United Brethren church at Clarksville is active.

George Wallis built a mill on the Mackinaw (34) to the southeast of here.



*Turn right to first road leading left (pink house). Turn left to end of road, then left to end of road. Jog right to end of road, then right to end of road. Turn left and go about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to old brick house (left). STOP.*

James Van Dolah came to this area in 1835 from Pennsylvania by way of Ohio. Widely known as a successful livestock man his holdings grew to 800 acres in this vicinity. David H. Van Dolah, born in 1841, was next to the youngest of a family of two daughters and seven sons. Young David began learning the livestock business from his father at the age of fourteen, traveling over the country buying Percheron and Norman horses and attending sales. With the inheritance of \$10,000 and a residence from his father

David bought out the farming interests of the heirs, increased it to 2,000 acres in McLean County, built a large sale and show barn in Lexington and the \$35,000 home which is a landmark at the northwest edge of Lexington. This is the Van Dolah homestead. (45)

*Go to first road beyond leading left.  
STOP. (35)*

To the left, stretching from southwest to northeast, is the longest remaining stretch of the trail to Chicago which is in use today; it was over this trail that early settlers drove livestock to market in Chicago. The former Hefner School is located to the right along this road; some eighty rods to the southeast of the school was the log cabin home (36) of General Bartholomew, the place where he settled (Section 13) upon coming here. He fortified his cabin against the possibility of Indian raids during the Black Hawk War.

*Go to first road leading right; turn right to end of road. STOP.*

To the right one can follow the road back to the Lexington blacktop in the vicinity of Lake Bloomington, past Trimmer School (37), the Trimmer "mansion" (38) (until recently occupied by Simon Moon), and the adjoining lands of the Ogden family.

*Turn left to end of road, then right to bridge. STOP.*

The William G. Bishop family came to Illinois in 1836 and settled on the farm of Jacob Spawr who had settled here in 1826. Mr. Bishop had a sawmill on Money Creek (39) southeast of here, which he built in 1838. Wesley Fletcher Bishop taught school in Money Creek Township in 1836-37 at a salary of \$20 per month; he boarded himself. The schoolhouse was



built by the settlers in this vicinity. The area between here and Towanda is rich in historical lore.

*Go to first road leading left; turn left, go to U.B. marker (40) ( $\frac{3}{4}$  mile on left). STOP.*

The first United Brethren Church in Illinois was established here in 1830. The Bloomington-Chicago trail ran through the Money Creek timber back of this marker, beyond what was once the Bishop School (41).

*Go to end of road. Turn left, right, and left to cross U.S. 66 at the Pure Oil Truck Stop to downtown Towanda. Go to end of road (south Towanda). STOP. (42)*

Towanda was laid out by Peter Badeau and Jesse W. Fell December 7, 1854. The Chicago & Mississippi Railroad (later the Chicago & Alton) was completed in 1854. Charles Roadnight, Treasurer of the railroad, became proprietor of the greater part of the town. In an attempt to "boom" the town, he built a two-story building, 50' x 100'; the lower floor to be rented

*Duncan Home / Towanda*



to merchants; the upper floor to be used as a hall or "ballroom." After the building burned, business establishments sprang up in its place. An early tavern in Towanda fell victim to a "hatchet brigade" of irate wives and mothers. Early businesses included a flour mill and the Tilbury tile factory.

*Turn left and go to second road leading right. Turn right; follow road to cemetery. STOP.*

David Smith came to this grove of 400 acres in 1830 (43), a grove which bears his name. His son, James, moved to Haven's Grove when he married Anna Havens March 30, 1831.

Prior to this, the John Trimmers arrived in August 1826. Shortly after locating on the banks of Money Creek (where the cemetery now is located) Mr. Trimmer died, leaving his widow with eight children. Jacob Spawr, W. H. Hodge, (Danvers), William Orendorff (Blooming Grove), and John Hendryx (Blooming Grove) came, helped make the walnut coffin, and assisted with the burial. Jesse Trimmer, one of the sons, recalled in later years having played with Indian children who lived nearby. In 1837 Jesse Trimmer married Amanda Gilmore, whose family had come to the Smith's Grove area from Ohio. Jesse settled on Section 17 in Money Creek Township, land which was part of the Ogden claim.

Others who came to the vicinity in the 1840's and 1850's were the Joneses, Whites, Krafts. The Jones family was interested in cattle raising; an enterprise that continues in the area as you have observed. Descendants of these families live in the county; others are buried in the Smith's Grove Cemetery.

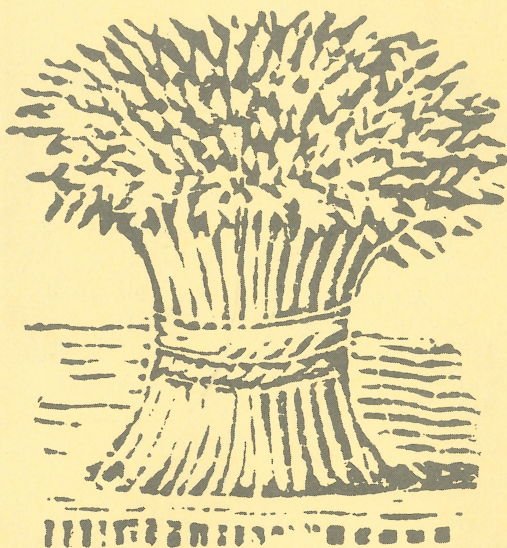
*Turn around, go back to first road leading left. Turn left to end of road, angle left along the railroad, then follow the*



*road through Barnes (44) to Route 9. Turn right and proceed to Abraham Lincoln Parking Lot at Hotel Rogers. STOP.*

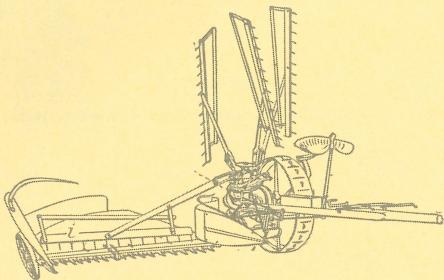
Note: Barnes is an unincorporated village, platted February 26, 1886. The elevator, a nearby school, and two or three dwellings mark its location.

\* \* \* \*





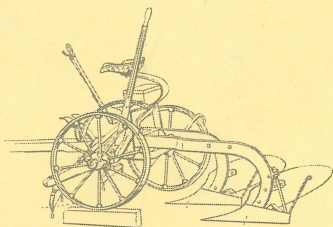


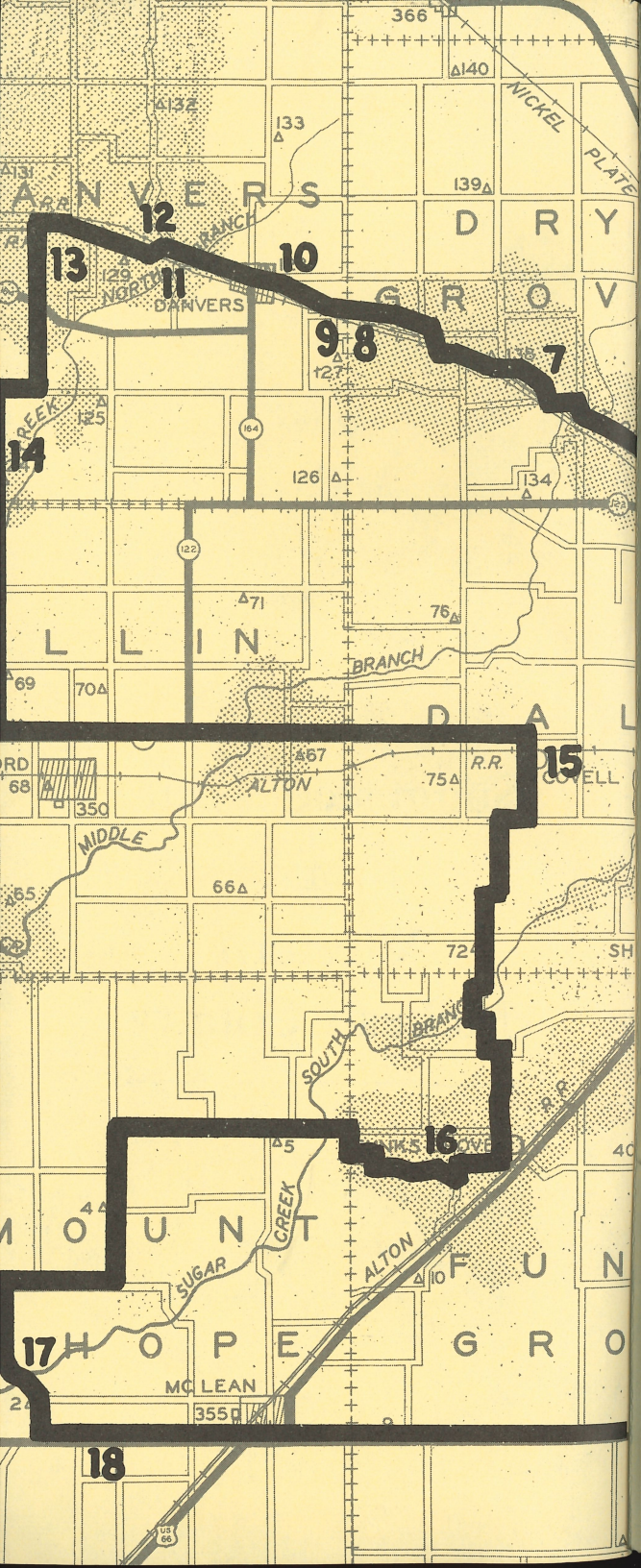


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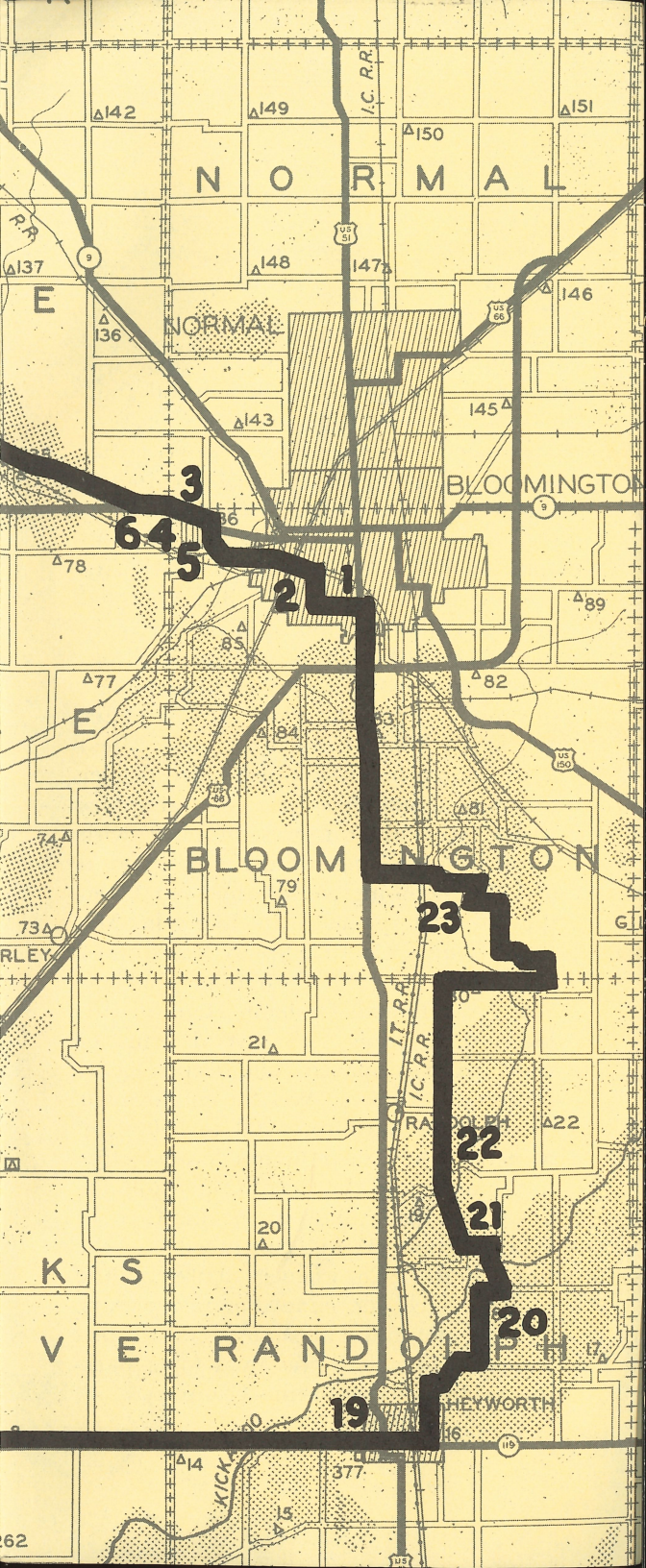
Suggested Tour  
of  
Western  
McLean County

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*Leave parking lot at Grove & Main Streets, Bloomington. Proceed west on Grove to Lee. Right on Lee to Washington, then left past the G. M. & O. Depot. Old Bloomington coal mine (right). (1)*

The first coal used in this area was brought by wagon from Peoria and Danville at a cost of from twelve to fourteen dollars a ton. Assured by geologists that coal was in this vicinity, the Bloomington City Council voted \$2,000 toward exploring this possibility in 1863. In 1866, an additional \$17,000 was subscribed by citizens, headed by Thomas J. Bunn (elected mayor of Bloomington in 1870 and again in 1877). Although these two drillings were unsuccessful, coal was located on a site just north of the Bloomington Water Works in 1867. Good coal was mined here, but while attempting to drill deeper for coal, a generous vein of water was struck. Bloomington was supplied with water from this well until the completion of Lake Bloomington. (Normal purchased the old well in 1961.) In 1868, the McLean County Coal Company was formed by Adlai and John Stevenson, Matthew Scott, and Lyman Graham. Here on this location, a mine with several veins of good coal was opened. The deepest penetration was 540 feet. Average employment in the mine was from 200 to 250 men. Miners wished their homes located close to the mine and thus were responsible for Stevensonville Addition to the City of Bloomington. Work continued at the mine until 1928 when a strike by the miners closed the mine. For many years, a huge mountain of shale stood at this location. The shale was used for a parking lot by Ralston-Purina Company.

*Proceed on Washington, past Little Brick*



*School (2) (now Assembly of God Church).*

Once known as the Washburn School for the Washburn family (florists). The old brick school is covered with stucco. It once served as a practice school for Normal University.

*Right at corner beyond Little Brick. Proceed to Route 9. Left to first road leading right. Turn right on it.*

This is the Old Trail (State Road) (3) which was laid out from Danville to Ft. Clark (Peoria). In earlier days the telephone poles were marked with an Indian head.

*Turn right, then left a few yards. STOP.*

East Twin Grove Cemetery lies to the southwest of Route 9. East Twin Grove Church stood across road from cemetery to the south. It was here that many families of early settlers attended church, among whom was the family of Will Johnson. The church burned mysteriously a number of years ago. The Twin Grove Crossing was a stop on the Illinois Traction. The Twin Grove Elevator and a group of houses made up a small community.

*Proceed past Munsell School (5) (left), now a dwelling.*

Eleazar Munsell came to Twin Grove in the spring of 1837. In this vicinity he farmed. He brought the first threshing machine to this part of the country.

*On to roadside pump (left). STOP.*

Here at one time was located a grist mill, a store, and a wagon shop. Known as Twin Grove Mill or better as King's Mill, (6) this was frequently used as a stop for travelers. The water-powered grist mill was just beyond and to the left of the bridge. The coming of the railroad

lessened the need for the mill so it was closed. At a later date a steam-powered saw and grist mill was erected in the area adjacent to the pump. Still later, a steam-powered sawmill was built to the left beyond the railroad underpass.

*On across bridge.*

The Elkins' house (right). Sam Elkins built his own crossing stop on the Illinois Traction. This was not uncommon.

*Across r. r. tracks left and down a few yards to Dry Grove Crossing. STOP.*

Old Dry Grove School (7) (right across tracks). Here was a grove, standing on high ground with only a few headwater brooks, hence the name—Dry Grove. To the southeast stood another grove of equal size (Route 9 goes through it), hence the name Twin Grove. Here you can plainly see the remains of the Illinois Traction, part of an electric railway system owned and operated by a company headed by W. B. McKinley. The section connecting Bloomington and Peoria was built in 1904. The interurban cars, running every hour, carried many passengers, and made stops at crossroads and stations along the way, handling local freight, including milk. Some cars carried the mail, and freight cars handled grain at sidings where elevators had been built. The electric railways gave way to the competition from motor vehicles, with the last cars running through Bloomington in 1953.

*Follow trail to 3rd Principal Meridian. (8) STOP.*

This is one of the degrees of longitude used in measuring distances east and west, which you studied about in your geographies. It furnishes the legal description of all properties within a given area. Our



trip so far has been east of the 3rd P. M. As we cross it, we are west of it. Danvers Township is known as 24 North, 1 West of the 3rd P. M.

*Go about 100 yds. to site of Wilkesborough. (9) STOP.*

Here was located one of McLean County's "ghost towns." Laid out in 1836 by J. O. Barnard, 96 lots and a public square were included. An addition of 96 lots were platted the following year. Since it was on the State Road to Pekin, many emigrants passed through it. A few houses, stores, and shops were built. Soon the village of Concord, now Danvers, began to develop. This spelled doom to Wilkesborough. J. O. Barnard was appointed postmaster of Wilkesborough by President Andrew Jackson. He also served as deputy under the first sheriff of McLean County.

*On to Danvers. (10) Turn left on street past the library, town park, town hall to spur of Route 9. Turn right on spur to Main Street. Left on Main Street. STOP.*

The town of Concord was platted in 1836. The post office, established here in 1849, was named Stout's Grove. In 1861, the post office department, in response to a petition, changed the name to Danvers, since Danvers, Massachusetts, was the home of Israel W. Hall, an early promoter of the town. Here at one time was located the Willow Bark Sanatorium, an establishment for the cure of alcoholism. Dr. Parkhurst was owner and promoter not only of this enterprise but of the local hotel.

*Proceed west on Main St. to street leading right that will connect with the old trail on left.*

Another name for the Old Trail was the Danville, Bloomington, Pekin Stage Route. This bridge is over the North

Branch of Sugar Creek. The large house on the right (at corner) was built by Lem Stephenson, a prominent cattle feeder.

*Left across r. r. tracks past Stout's Grove School (11) (left, and beyond to road leading to Stout's Grove Cemetery (12) (right across tracks). STOP.*

The heavy growth of timber that originally covered 20 sections to the north and west of here was named for Ephraim Stout who came here in 1825. About 1830 the first schoolhouse in western McLean County was built here. A typical log house, it had a huge fireplace, greased paper windows, and heavy split log benches. Ephraim Stout was skillful in making sugar troughs. By fitting them with a pin in the bottom and placing them on legs, they made good wash tubs. Ephraim Hodge erected a horse mill on Sugar Creek which we just crossed west of Danvers. Hardships of prairie living were many. In addition to encounters with unfriendly Indians, there were predatory animals, freakish weather, runaway horses (and oxen), prairie fires, and rattlesnakes. In 1827 when Robert McClure came to Stout's Grove, he killed 330 of these reptiles in this vicinity. (The Robert McClures are buried in this cemetery.) At one time Stout's Grove School was named McClure for H. C. McClure, who lived across the road and kept a tavern. The school was also known as Owl Hollow.

*Follow road across tracks, then left to 3rd road leading left. (blue pump)*

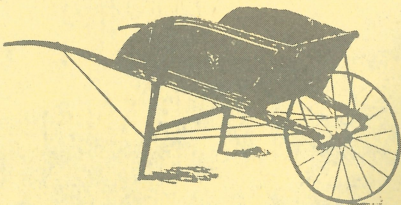
Here was Woodruff Crossing, (13) a stop on the Illinois Traction. A grain elevator and general store occupied this corner, which was quite a busy place.

*Turn left and proceed to end of road. Turn right, then left at 1st road, past*



*Mosquito Grove School (14) (left). Cross bridge past old-new house to white gate (right). STOP.*

In early years some stock drivers stopped at this grove. One of them asked a nearby settler, "What do you call this country?" The old man replied, "Why not call it Mosquito Grove, because there are plenty of them around here." So Mosquito Grove it became. In early days this section of the country was troubled by horse thieves. The Reddon family who lived here at Mosquito Grove were justly under suspicion. At one time, so legend goes, Isaac Funk and Robert Stubblefield knocked on the Reddon's door one rainy night to inquire about some missing animals. Old Man Reddon came to the door, saying, "Who are you? Horse thieves?" They explained they were looking for horse thieves and that the Reddons were under suspicion. The suspicion grew to such an extent that it was decided to have a 4th of July grand ring hunt, with the Reddons as game. The Reddons were given fair warning and the menfolks left the country. There was little stealing after that. In what is left of Mosquito Grove Cemetery, over near the creek bank (North Branch of Sugar Creek) lies just the one marker of the Redding family.



*Continue south past Center School (left) and on to Route 122. Turn left, past Brown's Grove (on the right, beyond pavement).*

This small grove was named for its first settler, William Brown.

*On to Covell. (15) Turn right through the town to end of road. STOP.*

Chas. A. Lindbergh bailed out from his mail plane just back of this house at 8:10 p. m., November 3, 1926. The plane crashed. This incident occurred just a few months before the flier's successful crossing of the Atlantic. An account of the crash was included in a film of Lindbergh's life.

*Turn right, then left at first road. Follow road past Sugar Creek School (right).*

Because there was no bell at one time, the teacher called the children by waving a cloth, thus giving the name, Shake Rag, to the School.

*Follow the road across bridge over Sugar Creek. STOP.*

The much publicized pollution of Sugar Creek is quite evident here. The dark colored water has eliminated all animal life in it. The cause is being investigated by the State. Possible sources are wastes from the Alpha Cellulose Plant or the

#### *Lindbergh Plane Crash*







*Church / Funk's Grove*

sewage and/or garbage disposal by way of the McGrath Gravel Pits southwest of Bloomington.

*Proceed to end of road, jog left, then right to Funk's Grove. (16) STOP.*

The original timber area, known as Funk's Grove covered about five sections with large, beautiful trees. Isaac Funk settled at the east side of the Grove in 1824. He and his illustrious family have contributed largely to the community and county. Numbered among them have been senators, congressmen, mayors, town officials, and civic workers. This grove remains more nearly intact than any in the county due to the foresight and wisdom of the family. It is a source of beauty and pleasure to all. The sugar camp is the only one in operation in this section of the country. The Chapel of the Trees is

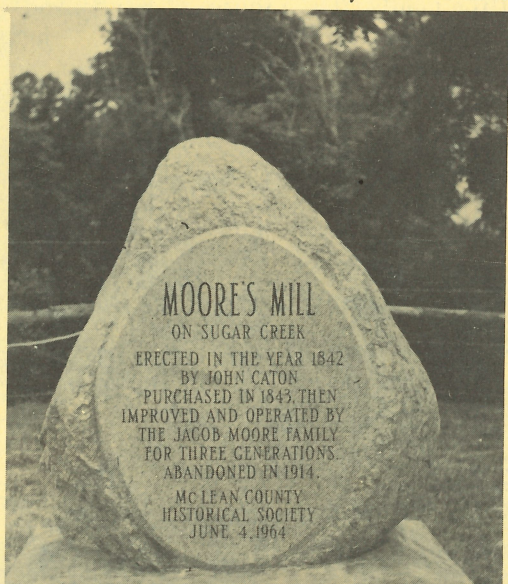


an inspiration as is the nearby church. Not only have members of the Funk family been laid to rest in the peaceful cemetery but there are graves of many other prominent McLean County citizens.

*Out of the Grove, turn left to first road leading left. Go to end of road past Funk-Stubblefield School (left). Then left to end of road and right to second road left. Follow road across bridge over South Branch of Sugar Creek to site of Moore's Mill (17) (left). STOP.*

Here in what is known as Johnson's Grove, stood an old water-powered mill which was built in 1842 by John Caton. Twenty feet of dam was built across the Creek and a reaction water wheel was installed. Mr. Caton intended it to be a saw mill, but he became discouraged with it and traded it to Jacob Moore. Jacob Moore had come from Ohio in 1841, with his wife and eight children, to settle with the Mt. Hope Colony, and, although a miller by trade, he intended to farm. When the opportunity came to get the mill, he traded his quarter section of land to Mr. Caton for it. Mr. Moore was his

*Site of Moore's Mill*





own architect and builder of the wooden machinery. He added to the dam and began operation in 1843, as a grist mill. While waiting turns at the mill, it was common for those waiting to camp and go hunting or fishing. The flour used by the Chicago & Alton construction crews between Funk's Grove and Atlanta was ground at Moore's Mill. After Jacob Moore's death in 1889, his son, Dave, continued to operate the mill. New steel shafting and other equipment was installed. This cog is one of those remaining. The mill stood for many years, drawing many interested spectators, but no effort was made to restore and/or preserve it.

*Continue to Route 136. Turn left on it, then right at the first road. Go on it to first road leading left. STOP.*

It was here that the Providence Emigrating Society located in 1837. As you can guess from the name, the fifteen families came from Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The village of Mt. Hope, (18) named for Mt. Hope, Rhode Island, was located on this quarter section, which is the only quarter section in the County bounded by roads. Laid out in 120 lots and 20 outlots in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 4 (here), stockholders were to receive 320 acres of land and four lots in the village. But the panic of 1837 and difficulties of farming the prairie discouraged many from coming west. Of those who came, few remained. There are a few markers in the abandoned cemetery in the SW corner of the quarter section.

*Go to first road leading left and back to 136. Turn right on it. Proceed past Longworth School (left), Lake School (left), Fairview School (right) and into Heyworth. Left on U. S. 51 to Main St., then right to Presbyterian Church. Turn left,*

*then right at cemetery and left on road at east end of cemetery. STOP.*

Heyworth (19) was platted in 1858. The village was named for a director of the Illinois Central by Campbell Wakefield, who had donated 20 acres to the railroad. Heyworth thrived while such settlements as Bishop and Lytleville to the north perished.

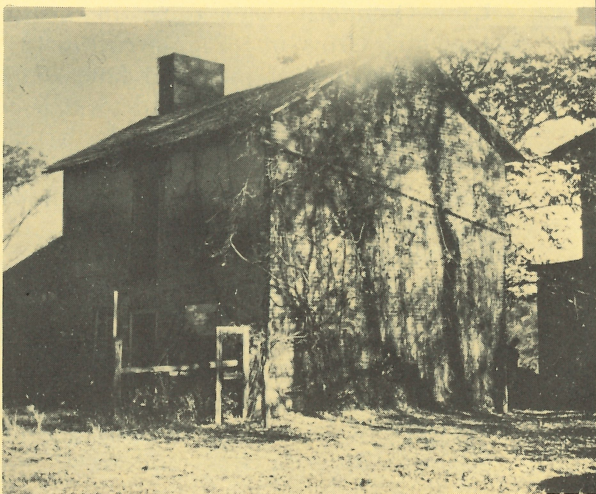
*Follow road (angling NE) to first road leading left. Go on this road to road leading right. STOP.*

Here stood the once prosperous village of Lytleville, (20) which was laid out in 1836 by John Baldwin. Consisting of 85 lots, the town was preceded by a saw mill established before 1830 on the Kickapoo. There was water power enough so that a grist mill was later added. These mills furnished lumber and flour to the new town of Bloomington. Randolph Grove, a beautifully timbered area extended along the Kickapoo for many miles from northeast to southwest. When the Illinois Central was located a mile to the west, Lytleville dwindled, and became another abandoned McLean County village. The cemetery located to the west of this road indicates that tragedy struck many families living here, probably a form of cholera.

*Turn right, then directly left at first road to end of road. Jog right, then left to end of road. Turn left to Stewart house. Go to end of road, then right. Proceed to end of lane (road) leading to second Stewart house (22) (right). STOP.*

Samuel Stewart came to Illinois in 1830 and bought a claim in Randolph's Grove. In 1831, he moved his family here in wagons from Hamilton County, Ohio. The first Stewart home was a log cabin,





*Stewart House / Heyworth-Randolph*

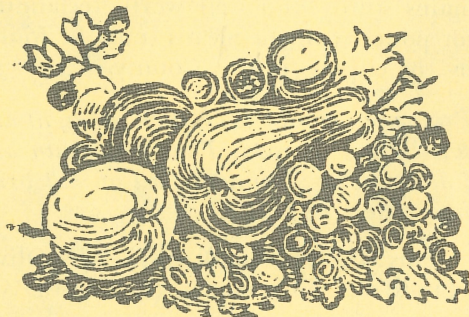
but immediately Samuel and his sons set to work to make the brick on these premises, saw the lumber, and build this house. The house was completed in 1834 after long hours of arduous toil. It truly was a palace in a primitive setting. The second Stewart house, built in 1840, lies to the north. The west room was used for day school, Sunday School, church, quilting bees, spelling matches, and debating clubs. An immense barn was erected. One big room in it was used for a threshing floor by neighbors as well as themselves. Though in a sad state of repair, it remains sturdy and well worth reclaiming for posterity, if the means could be found by the citizens of this County.

*Proceed to end of road, then jog right and left to end of road. Then left again and follow the road around past an old brick house (left). STOP.*

This house was built in 1856 by Oliver Hazard Perry Orendorff, (23) son of Wil-

liam Orendorff who came to nearby Blooming Grove in 1823. Married in 1847 to the daughter of John and Jane Hendrix (early settlers who moved to Dawson Township), the Oliver Orendorffs had two children. His son, George Perry Orendorff, was the father of Ina Orendorff, Homer Orendorff, Gertrude Deems, and Dr. Allen Orendorff.

*Go to end of road, turn left, then back right to end of road. Then left, back right to LaFayette Street. Left on LaFayette past old Three-Eye Ball Park (left), back of present Armory and Roller Rink. Right on Main to Grove and Main.*





## NOTES

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